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Oyster River High School
55 Coe Drive
Durham, NH 03824

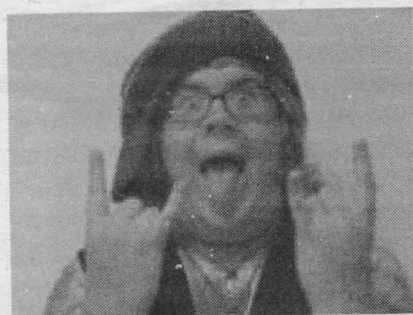
MOUTH of the RIVER



December 8, 2006



DOING TIME AT OYSTER RIVER...



Greyson Ersick News/Features

yourself. "I go to class everyday." Well, the reality is you were never late for class. You're just one of the many students in the school who've been affected by Gradequick.

Gradequick is a computer program that handles all attendance and grades within the school. Teachers use it to mark attendance and tardiness. That information is then sent to the office and collected on an attendance record. It also works as a virtual grade book where teachers can keep track of all assignments plus tests and homework. It can also pull up specific student information like phone numbers and addresses. "Teachers have only begun to use Gradequick to its full potential," says Sue Johnson who's been the Technology Coordinator at the middle school for 13 years. Since July 1st she's been the administrative software support person for Oyster River School District.

The high school has only been using the program Gradequick since 2005. However the district has used electronic grading for 10 years starting with the SIS (Student Information Services) program Administrators Plus. This program merely collected grades and printed them out. Teachers originally had to do all their grading by hand. "The high school started using Gradequick to get into the computer age," said Johnson.

In a nutshell teachers have had numerous problems with attendance; students who were in class get marked as not in class and kids who aren't in class as being in class. Along with attendance problems Gradequick has a lot of problems holding grades. Many times Gradequick does not average grades properly. And many times student's grades come out different on their report card and transcripts than what the teacher put into Gradequick. These problems have plagued many of the teachers at Oyster River. "In my four years here we've had a problem," says Assistant Principal Dave Evans. With many seniors working on college applications and sending in college transcripts right now this could jeopardize their chance of getting into college. "It's the kind of thing students at Oyster River need to know about," says English Teacher Judy Kucera. "It really affects them."

Many teachers still prefer to do all their grading calculations by hand using Gradequick only to send in final grades. Some teachers prefer to use a different program. As English teacher Shauna Horsley says, "(Gradequick is) not very user-friendly and it takes a lot more time to do grades." Social Studies teacher Dave Hawley agrees. "I use a program called Grade-Pro and it works beautifully and it's very user-friendly."

Almost every teacher has an opinion about Gradequick; some opinions are

Grade "Quick"?

Imagine the scenario: you make it to class everyday on time, you've never missed a day. You may even go as far as to consider yourself to be a very punctual student. But then one day you find yourself sitting in your Spanish class and a slip from the office arrives with your name on it. You break into a cold sweat "How could this be possible?" you may ask

stronger than others. "It fails to hold grades accurately. It neither grades or is quick therefore the name is redundant; it fails to do simple tasks such a moving rows and columns," says Hawley. "It's about as useful as a trash bag with a hole in it or a car with no wheels." Almost every teacher has a horror story dealing with Gradequick. "I've had cases where the grades I put in weren't what came out on the report card," says Horsley.

Johnson explained that the real problem is the lack of training the teachers have received. "For progress reports a teacher took a third party source and tried to interface it into Gradequick. This shut the system down for two days; teachers were unable to do their grades." In an attempt to remedy the problems, Johnson said she has "offered 3 classes on how to use Gradequick" but very few staff showed up to these classes. "The first one we had six teachers and 3 interns and it went very well. The second time we had one person come and the last one no one came."

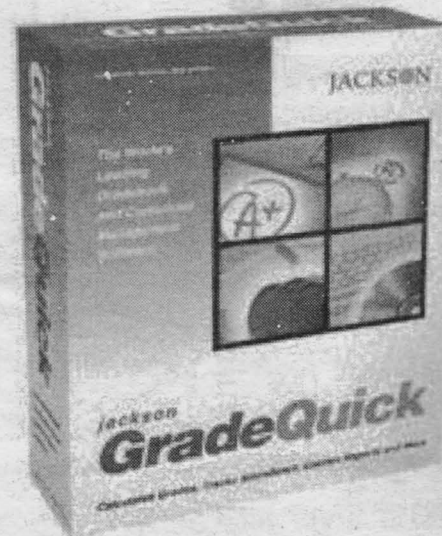
The performance of the server can also have a big effect on Gradequick. "Over the summer we switched to a different server and the server hasn't gone down once," Johnson says. This server switch has improved Gradequick. "The problem has gotten a lot better since last year, it handles attendance much better," agrees Hawley. Some teachers are optimistic about the program's future, like computer teacher Mrs. Sheldon who says the program is just something teachers need to get familiar with. "Teachers really get used to doing

something one way and have a hard time switching."

The school district is looking at different solutions for the problems. "We're looking at either a new program or educate the teachers more and make it more user friendly," says Evans. According to Johnson, getting a new program would "cost the district around \$ 70,000 and would take 8 months to change over to." Whether or not the district gets a new program, Gradequick will continue to effect all the schools in the District and all the students. Any change in the program would mean a change for all staff at all the schools. The administration and Johnson are continuing to work on remedying some of the issues with more workshops and having her in the building helping the staff during progress reports and report cards.

**"It's about as useful as a trash bag with a hole in it or a car with no wheels."
-Mr. Hawley**

The problem itself...



Courtesy of
www.Jacksonsoftware.com

The best time to see a turkey is on a warm clear day or in a light rain.



From Russia with Love

Allison Krzanowski News/Features

Name: Anton Semenov
Age: 16
Have you ever been to America before? No
What were your first impressions of America?
 Very clean.
What were your first impressions of Oyster River?
 Very big.
What are some differences between American schools and Russian schools? It's clean, more computers here, more modernization.
Why did you choose to come here? Because it's so different than Russia. It's another country with another culture and interesting things.

Name: Nastya Andrievskay
Age: 16
Have you ever been to America before? No
What were your first impressions of America? It is a beautiful country
What were your first impressions of Oyster River? The clothes are different, we have uniforms. In the classes here there is more discussion. There it is lecture and test.
Why did you choose to come here? I want to know more about this country, about traditions.

Name: Alyona Chernyayeva
Age: 15
Have you ever been to America before? No
What were your first impressions of America?
 It's really big.
What were your first impressions of Oyster River? Very different. Also very big.
What are some differences between American schools and Russian schools? Our school is pretty small. Our building is kind of old. It was founded in the 18th century.
Why did you choose to come here? I wanted to see how Americans live.

Name: Katya Fedorova
Age: 16
Have you ever been to America before? No
What were your first impressions of America? It is very clear.
What were your first impressions of Oyster River? Very friendly people
What are some differences between American schools and Russian schools? Very different. For example, the building is huge. Ours is small. Also you can choose your subjects.
Why did you choose to come here? Because I'd like to know something about America.

Name: Nastya Egorova
Age: 16
Have you ever been to America before? No
What were your first impressions of America? It is different from Russia. Fall is different.
What were your first impressions of Oyster River? The school is different. It is bigger and more modern. It's beautiful.
Why did you choose to come here? Because I hosted a girl from America- Allie Collopy.

Name: Ksenia Shults
Age: 15
Have you ever been to America before? No
What were your first impressions of America? I feel like I am in an American movie!
What were your first impressions of Oyster River? Russian and America schools are very different. I like your library because there are many books and computers. Students can be very comfortable. They can relax and read a book when they have free time. Classes are not formal like they are in Russia. Students feel very comfortable in classes.
Why did you choose to come here? Because Russian and American cultures are very different. I really wanted to see your culture, meet American families. It's very nice for us to soak in your culture. It's a good opportunity to practice our English.

After interviewing these exchange students, listening to a few speeches and watching the Russians and their hosts exchange gifts, I managed to find the two people in charge of this all to ask them a few questions.

How has this been going on? Since 1989, but not exchange, we just traveled there. In 1990, they started coming here. All through the 90s, we went every other year to St. Petersburg. The current exchange is Veliky, Novgorod.

How many students are here? 11

Who are some people who are very involved? (Mr. Herlihy and Mr. White both point to each other and laugh.) The administration is supportive. Parents are involved. Mr. Hawley, Mr. Pappas, and Mrs. Kucera have all gone at some point. Keegan Hoey has shown is support for all the years. He went as a freshman and has been involved since. I would say any student who has gone has been "bitten" and they're connected in some way. The Graham family; Lil Graham has helped out selling crafts. Christine Watts and Brian Russell have been real supportive for multiple years. Coca-Cola has sponsored us. The rest was grassroots fundraising.

How did it start? Mr. Herlihy was listening to someone on the radio talk about it and he called him. The name was Sean McGivern.

When to OR students go? April vacation plus a week and two days.



A wild turkey has excellent vision and hearing. Their field of vision is about 270 degrees.

College Stress



Allison Krzanowski News/Features

"It hit me like... a bus," said Jackie Sharbaugh, a senior, explaining why she is so stressed out about college.

It seems that the majority of seniors feel the same way as Sharbaugh. Notice how every conversation seniors have with each other will, somehow, in the end, go back to the issue of college, SAT scores, class rank, etc.

"I thought senior year was supposed to be fun. Isn't it supposed to be junior year

that is really stressful?" I heard someone say in the senior core during lunch.

I had always thought senior year would be easy too. Someone once gave me advice about driving saying, "No matter which way you turn, you'll always get where you need to go." I decided to go along with the whole "I'm sure everything will work out in the end" theory on things such as college too.

However, I quickly realized that this advice would not get me into art school. So for the next two months all I did was work on my portfolio. All most other seniors did was study for the SATs. This seems to be why everyone is so high strung lately. No one has time to do things that they want to do because they are too busy with college related obligations. Meanwhile, no one is sure that all of this work is even going to pay off.

There are some people who aren't concerned. One was Emily Quinn, a junior. "I'm not even going to worry about it until I want to or absolutely have to," she said.

I also finally found one senior who wasn't worried about college either: Brian Halliwell. "I'm not the type of person that stresses out about things." He shrugged and added, "I have a pretty good chance of getting in, so I'm not terribly worried.

Halliwell was more or less alone in his stress-free zone. "It's stressful knowing you have to make such a big decision that will affect the next four years and your future," said Emily Jasinski, a senior. "And the application itself is stressful because you know you have to do your best on it because that's what colleges expect. So you're just putting more pressure on yourself."

Ashlyn Merrill, a junior, is also already thinking about college. Though she said that she is not as concerned as her fellow classmates, she commented, "It's confusing and it costs a lot of money."

The bottom line is: relax, you will get in somewhere. You will probably be happy with wherever you end up, and if you do make the wrong decision, you can always transfer. Just hang in there, this will all be over in a few months. In the mean time, follow MOR's tips on how to de-stress.

Top Ways to Relieve College Stress (Tested by members of the MOR staff)

- Light old artwork, essays, tests, etc. on fire with incense matches.
- Eat s'mores pop-tarts without the corners.
- Play Mad Gab. There is something very de-stressing about talking really fast and slurring your words together.
- Drive around listening to emo music.
- Dress up in a giant banana suit.
- Have awkward conversations in front of teachers
- Paint on your friends' clothes
- Help little kids with their homework so you feel smarter
- 56-03e2895yb y67074r nho9s43 (translation: type with your nose)
- watch "Accepted," make similar plans for potential rejection

Emily Sievert Sports Department

Can you believe this?!

Science Professors at Duke University have recently invented "Invisibility Cloaks!" These "cloaks" reroute wavelengths of light, in the same way that "rocks in a stream reroute the water flowing around it." These cloaks can be seen by the naked eye, but when radio waves or microwaves are pointed at it, they are rerouted making the object invisible for those waves. This type of technology could be good for planes, or in the military, but how would a huge blanket over an F-15 look? What do you think?

"How is that possible anywhere else than Harry Potter land?!"

- Taylor Ackerman, Junior

"Good Stuff! It will make us invisible."

- Mark Pavlidis, Senior

"It would be fun because you could sneak up on people and scare them."

- Sarah Crothers, Junior

"Great! Now I can take my pretending of Harry Potter to the next level."

-Eds Harding, Senior

"That's sick! I want one!"

-Alina Harris, Junior

"This seems great, but you can't like get excited because its probably one of those things where not everyone can have one."

-Eve Mugar, Senior

*Information gathered from www.live science.com Copyright 2006.

We all love snow days but the only bummer comes in the month of June when those days are tacked onto the end of the year, but until this year Seniors had nothing to worry about.

When the school year starts, grades 9-11 face a year of 180 required days. Seniors, being the oldest, are required to have 175. Normally, senior graduation is planned to be on the 177th, or 178th day of the year to plan for snow days, but this year it wasn't. This year, graduation is on June 8, 2007, which is the 175th day of the class of 2007's senior year. This means that, as of now, if snow days happen this year, seniors will be expected to attend school on teacher workshop days, so that their year will be 175 days long. Yet, these "make-up" days will not be regular school. Principal Laura Rogers said that she would try and plan some community service activities or ropes courses at UNH, or alternative activities run similar to diversity day or art day, so that students will be learning, but outside the classroom. As a result, the students will write a short essay on what they learned that day. On the upside, the day would run on either a two-hour delay schedule (9:30-2:30) or on an early release schedule (7:35-12:15), and seniors may be able to vote on that, if the situation arises.

Most of you seniors are already thinking that there is no way you will ever show up on a teacher workshop day, but the bummer about this is, is that the day does not count if less than 75% of the class does not show up, and therefore will have to try again on something like a Saturday. So seniors, as much as we love skiing and the winter months, DON'T PRAY FOR SNOW!

According to Edward Winslow, a participant in the First Thanksgiving, the feast consisted of: Corn, Barley, Fowl including Wild Turkeys and Venison



Allison Krzanowski News/Features

Embarrassing Holiday Family Stories

I opted out of giving my own embarrassing story last time, but family stories are much easier to tell: Mostly because I wasn't the one saying something stupid. There are many funny stories about my family, but the one I am the least embarrassed about took place at my grandmother's house.

My grandmother is 90. She is completely coherent, but cannot hear very well and is not the most physically capable person. "Trying to get Nana to get hearing aides" has been an ongoing battle for about five years. After about an hour of my mom, dad, sister, aunt and uncle talking as loudly as they could to get my grandmother to hear them, Aunt Nancy came up with a new idea.

"Eleanor, why don't you pour some rubbing alcohol into your ear?" she asked.

"And how do you suppose she'll do that, Nancy?!" my uncle responded.

My aunt continued, "Just pour the rubbing alcohol into the cap, tilt your head to the side, and pour it in your ear!"

"Yeah, why don't you pour in some baking soda and create a volcano!" yelled Uncle Nat.

This conversation went on for about another half an hour. Meanwhile, my grandmother could barely even hear the jokes being made about her, but interrupted every now and then with questions about how she could pour rubbing alcohol into her ears. She got hearing aides the next week.

One time, my brother and his friend found a hammer in the woods. They were about four and they decided to "fix something". They went to the back of my house where there's a vent for the dryer and they hammered it off and smashed it to pieces. Then, they stuck a hose in the hole in the house and turned on the water. They ended up flooding that part of my house. -Timmy Short, Grade 9

Each year at Thanksgiving we hand out names to people and the name you get is the stocking you're going to fill. So my uncle managed to somehow take out about half the names and filled it with his name. But if someone gets their own name, we put the names back in and draw again. So someone gets their own name and only then do we discover that my uncle had put his name in so many times. -Caleb Reinhold, Grade 11

Every Christmas Eve, my family goes to a church service. There's a group of people in the Christmas chorus and they always have candles. One year my brother was in it and he accidentally caught a girl's hair on fire. -Cynthia Richard, Grade 11

I had older brothers and sisters who were very deviant. We had this neighbor who we called Beasel. He kind of looked like a cross between a beaver and a weasel. Anyways, I came home from school one day and my brother and sister had Beasel up against the wall. They held him there and we threw plums at him. Then they took Beasel from the wall, locked him up in a trunk, and sent his mother a ransom note for five million dollars. -Mr. Lawrence

One time at my grandma's house at a family Thanksgiving dinner, all the cousins were at one table and all the adults were at another table. So we scooped butter with the ice cream scooper, and then we noticed that my cousin was just eating the butter. Then we tried to take the butter away from him and he ran away with it. -Katie Tong, Grade 12

My grandmother came up for Christmas and we bought a lot of new clothes and spent a lot of time getting things for her. Then, my mom was sitting in her chair with a single box on her lap. My family had forgotten to get my mom presents. Now she won't let it go, so every year we have to make sure she has something. If you don't believe me you can go ask her! -Jess Richards, Grade 12

Holiday Traditions



Allison Krzanowski News/Features

Every Christmas we eat crepes- Kyleigh Labranche, Grade 11

We eat Chinese food- Jon Owens, Grade 10

My family does the Polar Bear Plunge on Hampton Beach- Kelsie Belanger, Grade 9

I go to Colorado every Christmas- Michelle Foster, Grade 9

We drive around and look at people's Christmas lights- Maggie Dana, Grade 9

On Thanksgiving all the men get on the scale and weigh themselves after the meal.- Amanda Fisher, Grade 12

Kwanzaa is not a substitute for Christmas.

**Caitlin Byrne News/Features**

Breathe In, Breathe Out: Oyster River High School's Dance Controversies

"Friday Night Dances are the worst part of my job," said Sara Wotton, one of ORHS's assistant principals. "I always ask myself what if I miss a kid, and I get a phone call later that night that they have been in an accident, what then?"

At the last dance at ORHS, six students were asked to submit to breathalyzer tests. The administration feels that it is their duty to protect the students at ORHS. But, many students feel that these precautions are going to extreme levels and that their rights are now in jeopardy. Several students are even starting to question the severity of these precautions and are wondering if specific groups of people are being targeted.

"I understand that the administration has feelings about our safety and I know that they do feel pressure, but my issue is that certain people were targeted that night," said Emily Murphy. "Look at the facts. Every person that was tested was from a specific group. That is morally wrong."

Is this the case? Are certain groups at ORHS more susceptible to breathalyzers, and what rights do students really have? Are the actions that have been taken by the administration legal?

Officer Ed Levesque has worked on the Durham Police force for more than 20 years. He believes that the school has taken every legal precaution and they are not violating any rights.

"In reality the school can do whatever they choose on school grounds in regards to drug and alcohol tests," Levesque said. "I cannot speak for the school but I can certainly say that the Supreme Court allows them to administer breathalyzer tests. The level of proof the school needs is just any form of suspicion, any form..."

Dave Evans, ORHS's other assistant principal, has never had to administer a breathalyzer test. He said his wish, along with Wotton's, would be that they could go to a dance and just watch students have fun.

"It's perfectly understandable that some kids become upset when they are asked to take this test," said Evans. "However my biggest fear, along with Sara's I'm sure, is that we will get a phone call later that night. I don't want to take that phone call. I've taken too many already."

When asked about profiling students, Evans believes that the students that feel this way, are the students who have been caught abusing some sort of substance.

"I guarantee these students are the ones who have been caught drinking at a dance. But you know what, it's illegal. They seem to think that we are too tough, but everything that they have been doing is against the law."

Whether or not these accusations of liability against the school are true, it seems that Oyster River is still undecided about the actions that the administration has taken. Others, along with Murphy still feel that their rights were violated, not necessarily legally but morally and they continue to speculate about the administration's motives. Will these actions continue to affect some of the student body's respect for the administrators or will ORHS put to rest these accusations?



Yep that's right ORHS has more **Overheards!**

Sam Kerrigan: There is nothing better than making up a good story.

Sam Kerrigan: Notice how my eyes are OPEN in my byline picture.

Mrs. Kucera: I'm sure we could get a picture of Blair in Bed.

Allison Krzanowski: Hey, that's like our conversation. We were just looking for nude models.

Craig Randall: Stay away from my butt hole!

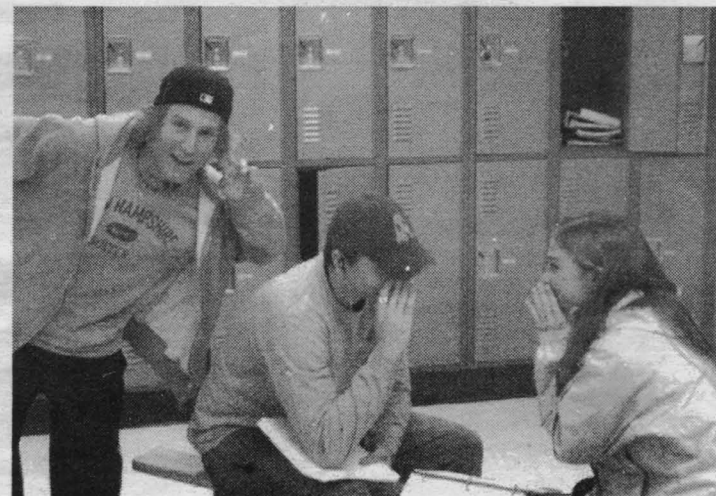
Meghan Milner: You always volunteer my free services!

Mr. Zottoli: Kevin, put *that* in your Granite State Challenge and smoke it!

Blake Janelle: They're both cute guys, but I prefer Matt Leinart.

Thayer Harris: Mr. Murphy, your mouth says no, but your eyes say yes.

Nick Riccardi: This pink watch matches my underwear.



Kwanzaa is based on seven principles called "Nguzo Saba": unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith



Greyson Ersick News/Features

What's Happenin?!

Albums:

Dec 12th

Taylor Hicks- Taylor Hicks

Sonic Youth- Destroyed By Youth (B-Sides and Radio)

Fantasia- Fantasia

Dec 19th

Nas- Hip Hop is Dead

Bow Wow- Price of Fame

Dec 26th

Switchfoot- Oh Gravity

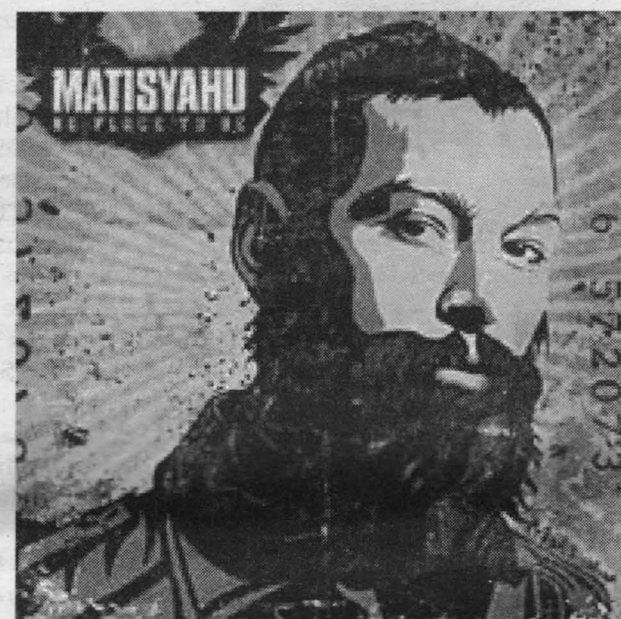
Matisyahu- No Place to Be CD/DVD

Jan 2nd

Carly Simon- Into White

Jan 23rd

The Shins- Wincing the Night Away



Concerts:

12/9/06

Dashboard Confessionals Tsongas Arena Lowell Mass

12/14/06 Kiss 108 Jingle Ball Featuring: Nelly Furtado, The Fray, Fall

Out Boy, Nick Lachey, Pussycat Dolls, KT Tunstall, Chris Brown.

Tsongas Arena Lowell Mass

12/14/06

The Austrailain Pink Floyd Show Verizon Wireless Arena Manchester NH

12/28/06 Trey Anastasio Orpheum Theatre

High School Musical - The Concert Verizon Wireless Arena Manchester NH

1/21/06 Lord of The Dance Whittemore Center

12/9/06 Entrain The Stone Church Newmarket NH

12/15/06 Johnny Winter The Stone Church Newmarket NH

1/6/06 Funkfoot The Stone Church Newmarket NH

1/12/06 Dub Station The Stone Church Newmarket NH

1/27/07 Bob Seger TD Banknorth Garden



Courtesy of www.imdb.com

Movies:

Courtesy of www.Matismusic.com

December 8th: *The Holiday*: Jude Law, Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jack Black.

Cameron Diaz has love troubles goes to England, meets Winslet, finds she has troubles too.

Apocolypto: Directed by Mel Gibson about the fall of the Mayan empire.

December 15th

Charlottes Web: Dakota Fanning, Julia Roberts, Oprah Winfrey.

A remake of the classic book and cartoon movie.

Eragon: The way hyped-up fantasy book gets the Harry Potter treatment in the first movie of what will most likely be a series.

December 22nd

Rocky Balboa (Rocky VI):

In the next installment in the Sylvester Stallone series Rocky Balboa beats a dead horse well not really but jeez how many more of these can he make?

The Good Shepard: Matt Damon Angelina Joile Robert De Niro.

De Niro directs and plays in this story of the of the birth and growth of the CIA.

December 29th

Children of Men: Julianne Moore Clive Owen set in the not to distant future where humans can no longer procreate Clive Owen must transport a pregnant Julianne Moore to a sanctuary.

Perfume: The Story of a Murder

A movie adaptation of one of my favorite books yall should check it out

January 5th

Hostel Part 2:

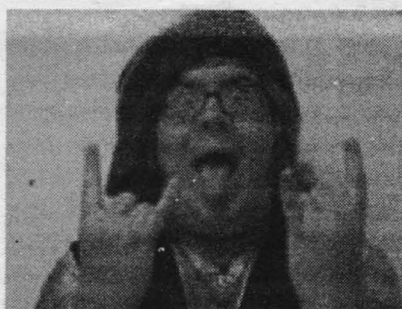
The sequel to the awesome 2005 thriller this one should be almost as good .

Code Name: The Cleaner Cedric the Entertainer, Lucy Liu, Elizabeth Hurley.

Cedric the Entertainer, a janitor, is convinced by Lucy Liu that he works for the CIA.

Kwanzaa, was started in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor at California State University

The DEATH!!!!... Of the CD



Greyson Ersick News/Features

Is this the death of the CD? Are traditional music stores gone? Have we come to an age where music is something that's no longer tangible? Has the age of flocking to the Bullmoose music to buy the latest CD from Beck passed? In some ways it sure seems that way the music industry has suffered a lot because of a lack of CD sales. Is it because there's no longer any quality music to buy? Of course not, it's because of the latest advance in music technology, the online music store.

i tunes, Amazon, Napster there's an endless supply of names and services offering music downloads for only a few cents.

Online music stores have grown significantly since 2005 when websites like itunes launched online music store services, while since 2000, total music sales have gone on a steady decrease. According to the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) statistics in 2005 CD Dual-Disc and Vinyl sales were about 11.2 Billion dollars; a 7.9% decrease in sales from the previous year. While legal downloads grossed 503.6 million, more than 174.5 % since

2004, legal online music purchases today make up about 11% of total music sales in the country.

Most recently, after 46 years of operation, the famous music mega store Tower Records, which has numerous locations throughout country including Boston's Chestnut Hill, announced that they'll close all stores across the country. The company has had problems since the summer when they filled for bankruptcy.

"But sure CD's have gone down drastically, as long as we get the music that's all that matters" you may say to yourself, Lots of Oyster River High School students praise itunes and other services like that, those without an I pod's are a minority in this school Senior Tony Smith says "I like itunes, you can buy things you wouldn't be able to buy at places like Best Buy" However Smith states "many bands don't have songs on I tunes"

But what about the emotional attachment and the euphoric thrill of going to your local music store and holding in your hand a brand new album with detailed artwork and everything? Senior Karl Humm says there is an emotional attachment to buying CD's "But that doesn't stop me from downloading" The packaging has always been apart of the thrill of buying a new CD. What has turned off so many from buying CD's is it the price? Places like Wal-Mart and Target charge between 17.00-14.00 for a new CD and FYE charges 20.00 for all new CD's. Supply and Demand is the name of the game here. CD prices need to increase because CD sales have gone down so much.

But it's not all bad. Although this summer was the worst for overall music sales, with the recent release of numerous blockbuster records from Beyonce, John Mayer, My Chemical Romance and Justin Timberlake overall sales have gone up within the start of the school year so maybe just maybe things are looking up for CD's but in this day and age do people really even care about CD's anymore?

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The Puritans in America tried to make Thanksgiving Day the most important annual festival instead of Christmas



Caitlin Byrne News/Features

Step Inside Nutella: The Good, the Great and the Down right Delicious!

In case you were wondering generous amounts of people were asked what some signs of a Nutella Addiction were:

- Constant Cravings
- Mind being distracted by Nutella
- Putting Nutella on unreasonable things
- Dreaming Endlessly of the Hazelnut Spread
- Wondering if Nutella Loves you as much as you love it.

Webster's classic reference library dictionary defines an obsession as "An unhealthy and compulsive preoccupation with something..." Unfortunately for Oyster River High School, over the past six years the school community has succumbed to an obsession. Yes that's right, ORHS is in trouble. What you may ask is the latest craze? Nutella.

Susan Smith one of the Foreign Language teachers and chief perpetrator of the obsession here at ORHS says that she doesn't really know why students are so nuts for Nutella.

"It must be the chocolate-hazelnut goodness of the substance. I can't specifically remember any students telling me exactly why it is so popular. It just is," Smith commented.

Along with Smith, many do wonder, who brought Nutella to ORHS? How did this phenomenon get started?

"I do not believe that it was Mr. Lord, one of the other foreign language teachers, or myself. I think it was just students who came back from Europe and decided that the spread would work well with the combination of a crepe. Since then it's been a big hit with our crepe parties."

French 5 students at ORHS are also crazed about the hazelnut spread. Since they have taken 5 years of French they feel their opinions are the most valued.

"It's just the chocolaty-nutty goodness." Peter Cooley

"It's just the sticky spread able chocolaty goodness that can be put on anything. If you don't know about Nutella, well you should!" Emily Murphy.

"When I started French it was a big Nutella frenzy. It's just normal for me now. But yes I am very obsessed." Eve Mugar

With the discovery of Nutella, many questions are brought to the table. One of the most prominent being, what Nutella recipes are the tastiest? Are they difficult to make? Well fear no more ORHS, the brave and dedicated staff of Mouth of the River recently sampled some and came up with these conclusions. Its hard work, but someone had to do it.

Nutella Croissants: 3 out of 8 preferred the flaky croissants

"The crossiant was to die for. There was a perfect medley of croissant and nutella." Blair Kelley

"I enjoyed the melange of flaky crossiant and creamy nutella-my favorite." Mrs. Kucera

Rich Nutella Cheesecake: 5 out of 8 preffered the cheesecake

"The cheesecake was money to say the least. The combo was excellent and I could eat it all day long." Sam Kerrigan

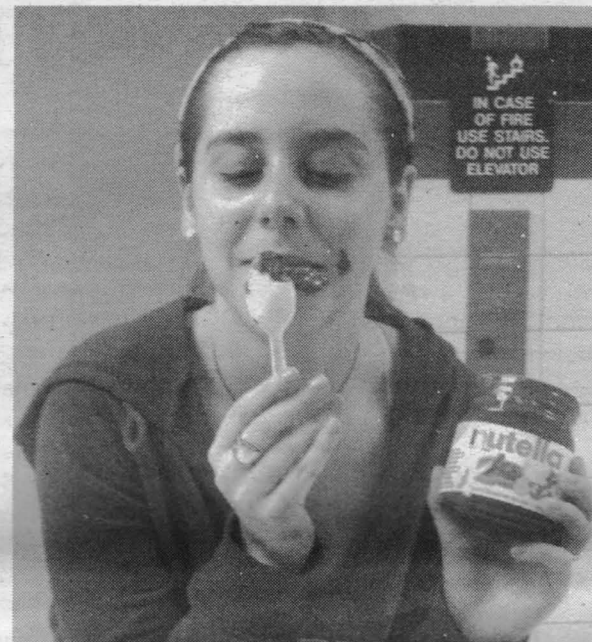
"The Cheesecake was very rich and good. The crust is the best!" Emily Sievert

"Good in small portions but the chocolate is too overpowering. It was a struggle to finish the piece." Joe Gehling.

Nutella Cupcakes: 0 out of 8 preferred the cupcakes

"The-cupcakes were kind of dry but the nutella on top was really good." Cassie deAlba

"Delicious." Greyson Ersick



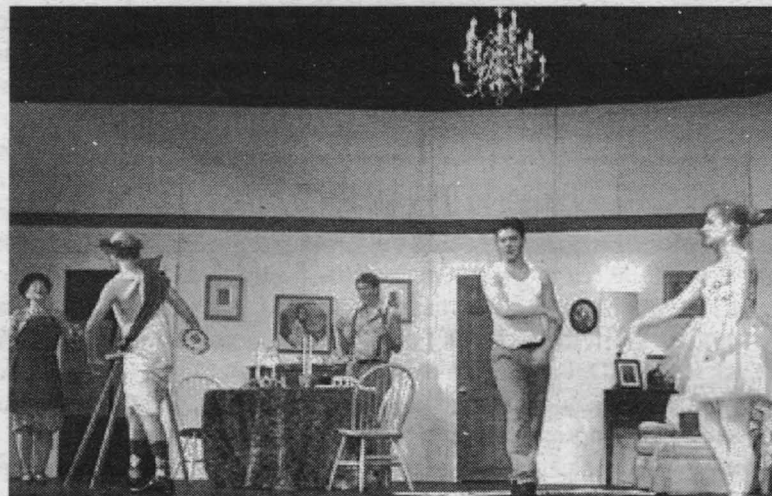
Eve Mugar devouers Nutella

You Can't Take It with You Play Review

A crazy story of a crazy family and all the crazy stuff that happens to them. That's the basic idea of You Cant Take It With You. In recent years Oyster River has become a really awesome place for some amazing plays and musicals. And judging by this play we really are continuing to uphold that reputation. Junior Cam Brown once again blew everyone away with the entirely believable character by Grandpa Vanderhof. Freshman Brett Chamberlin really stole the show with his hilarious performance as Mr.

Depinna. Bryce Harding and Liza Behrendt as Mr. and Mrs. Sycamore both were amazing and provided some really interesting characters. Perhaps the best performances were from Eve Mugar and Max Eggers they were the only sane characters in the whole story. Complete polar opposites to Ayden Grout and Matt Camp who played the strangest characters in the whole play but did it wonderfully. Leslie Claridge and Kiera Ryan both played some crazy Russians who were really crazy and Cameron Lund and Bobby Forget provided a lot of comedy to an already hilarious play and if you didn't see it you were really missing out. Overall the play was crazy judging my overuse of

the world crazy. **Grey's Grade B +**



The 24 hour stories

Maybe you've already heard that the staff of the MOR devoted our precious time to experiment what it would be like to do something you've always wanted to do, for 24 hours straight. What we've found and documented may shock you, but these articles are just too funny and interesting to put down.

24 Hours being Pregnant...

Emily Sievert Sports Department



Emily Sievert striking a pregnant pose

No high school student wants to sit through the "sex talk." We all know it has to happen, but that doesn't mean you like it. The awkwardness of the moment when your mom sits down with a bag of condoms or pencil and paper ready to draw a diagram is too much for any of us to handle. In fact, this moment might be so awkward to some of us, that it might scare you away from ever participating in sexual activity.

Well this is where I differ from the rest. The sex talk to me was not that embarrassing. My parents respected the topic and to be honest, I don't think they expected me to partake in abstinence or wait until I am married. The thing that does scare me about sexual activity is the chance of pregnancy. It terrifies me. It's just something that I don't think any of us girls want to experience. So I decided to terrify myself a little more, and wear what is known as "The Empathy Belly," which is a pregnancy simulator that weighs no less than 35 pounds. To make matters even worse, I was going to wear it for 24 hours, and in public. Here's my story:

B-Period: (roughly 8:30) I got the Empathy Belly from Mr. Quaglieri between A and B periods. Then I went to Drawing and Painting and withstood shocked stares from confused sophomore girls. I then explained to my friends that I was doing this for the paper. People asked to punch me in the stomach and feel the fake breasts, so I let them. I saw my 'boyfriend' who called me tubs and wouldn't really look at me. Awesome.

C-Period: Went to Economics where junior guys laughed at my appearance and Ms Healy sympathized, or was utterly disgusted. She told me that she "hated pregnancy" and didn't "understand the people who like it, yuck."

D-Period: I had free period and spent it in the senior core answering questions from laughing friends. I cheated a little and let a few friends try the belly on. Shhh. Then the announcements came on and I had to run into Ms Healy's room for the lock down, which I'm sure, was not good for the baby. I got laughed at again by junior girls.

Lunch: I sat with my friends and laughed about my appearance a little more. I got a sandwich and spilled dressing on my new enormous breasts. I wasn't used to them yet. I walked by a table of freshmen that were absolutely shocked and did, in fact, point. I went to E-Period looking like a slobby mother.

E-Period: I had forensics and got laughed at by Ms. Rayner. She told me that "I didn't look pregnant because of the giant crease on the stomach." Great. I had trouble sitting in the lab seats because my stomach didn't fit under the table.

F-Period: I had Journalism and planned what I was going to do that night with my new belly.

G-Period: I had Advanced Writing. Mr. White didn't look at me...too awkward? I asked him if I looked pregnant, he said no and then let us go work on writing by ourselves. Instead, I went to the core and laughed

about my belly a little more. I put on my rain jacket and looked more fat than pregnant.

After School: I went to get gas at the Blue Canoe. I decided to pump instead of go scare the cashier, but still got looked at by a punk looking kid whose mouth dropped open as he pulled into the gas station. Got back into the car but saw Maddie Kelly's mom who stared at me weirdly. I decided to let it go. Yikes.

The Movies: Went to see *Borat*. I decided that a controversial movie was a good choice for a to-be teen mother. The girl at the ticket booth, (looked to be my age) didn't ask for my ID. I guess she was hoping I was at least 17. I got stared at by at least 90% of the 120+ people in line for the new James Bond movie. Yeah whatever people, James Bond sucks. I asked my 'boyfriend' to hold my hand; he walked away. Started to get a huge cramp in my back and my neck was being cut. I have decided to adopt.

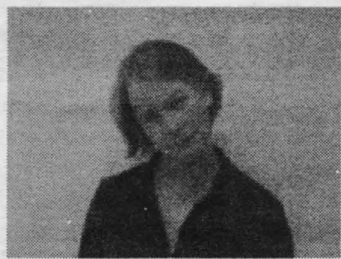
Bedtime: Tried to sleep with the belly. I realized that the 15 pound cannonballs were not going to let me sleep since they were pressing against my bladder, so I rolled to my side.

2am: Cheated. I took the stomach off. You try sleeping with another person on you!...yeah.

Morning: Since I cheated during the night, I decided to make my mom happy (for some reason she really wanted to go in public with me), and went to the grocery store with her. She told me she would "be my guardian, and say 'So what if she's pregnant' if anyone stared." Thanks mom, good to know we're bonding over my "to-be" child. Got stared at endlessly again; especially by the of-age mothers pushing their children in the carts. Yuck.

Overall: For me, this was a great learning experience. One of the things I learned was that my baby was not going to weigh 35 pounds if I could help it. The experience was more embarrassing and degrading than the fun thing I thought it would be. School was fine, since most people knew I didn't acquire a 9-month old fetus over night, but after that, I just felt awkward, embarrassed and guilty. So if the sex talk didn't scare me away, than this sure did. My advice? Use protection. I'm sure all of us know this though from the years of health since elementary school, but honestly, a teen pregnancy is not worth it, and this time I could take the belly off!

The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's White Christmas.



Mrs. Kucera Faculty Advisor

Flies, Gustavo and Coffee – Or, How to Stay Awake in Class A Teacher Goes Undercover to Experience Life as a Student

When the staff of Mouth of the River decided to try experiencing things for 24 hours, I thought I would try to return to the life of a teenager. Unfortunately, my life made actually doing 24 hours impossible – so I limited my experience to that of a student. I hoped that I would gain perspective. I envisioned it as being a day off from my responsibilities – an easy ride compared to the rigors of teaching. I was wrong.

7:20 – I arrive at the high school with my cup of coffee and pull into my faculty parking spot. Already, I have violated the terms of my truly becoming a student. I should have taken the school bus in.

A period - Physics. I enter and there is the awkwardness of trying to find a seat. I feel like that scene from *Forest Gump* where everyone tells him that the seat's taken. We've got a sub. I watch him mix up the volume and channel buttons with embarrassment. I've done the same thing. The clock ticks slowly by.

B period - I go to the cafeteria – the only place where I can do some work and eat a pop tart and drink some coffee. I sit by myself. Students are sitting around in clusters. Dan goes from table to table taking chairs down. Someone is snapping gum loudly. There is loud laughter from the Troy, Laforce, Levesque table. It's hard to focus.

C period - French 2 with Madame Smith. I'm in my element as a former French exchange student. When Mme. Smith asks for translations I raise my hand and call out "Je connais madame! Je connais!" then I feel ashamed at my nerdiness. I find myself getting impatient as Madame patiently asks students to translate the phrases. The students next to me are copying each others trig notes. We practice dialogues for a test on Wednesday and then students ask me questions in French. The bell rings as she explains the homework.

D period - Trigonometry. I sit in the back of the room. As they go over the answers from the homework my brain is quickly overwhelmed as it's asked to do things it hasn't done in years. An example: "A wheel 10 cm in diameter is running at a rate of 200 revolutions per minute. If it is rolling on the ground without slipping – how far in feet will the wheel roll in 5 minutes?" This reminds me of the huge rolling wheel scene from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* sequel and my brain is distracted for some time. A large fly darting around the ceiling catches my attention. There's a test coming up on Thursday and Friday. They start working on their homework. I hit up the student next to me to eat lunch with.

Lunch - For \$4.25 I get a burger, a kiwi and five waffle fries. There are no seats left with the student who said I could eat with her. Panicked – I find a place with another table. They are silent and uncomfortable with me there. The fries

were over crispy or too soft; the burger was well done but too thin. I'm still hungry so I go back to the line to pick up some good looking cookies I saw earlier. But they're all gone! I resort to the vending machine. I don't recommend Grandma's Chocolate Chip cookies.

E period – Advanced Topics in World Cultures - I come in to the dimly lit and vanilla scented room. The teacher goes over the schedule. There's a position paper due on Friday. We watch a film about the trails of being Cuban with a strongly soap opera feel. I am distracted by the hotness of Gustavo, the main character. I am saddened when he dies trying to kill Castro.

F period - Peace Studies - As the class discusses the value of meditation, my mind is still meditating on Gustavo. After five classes, my brain is sluggish and tired. They launch into a discussion about quotes from Gandhi. I struggle to sound coherent and intelligent.

The day ends - As my day as a student draws to a close, I have a number of observations:

1. I am surprised by the number of teachers who say they didn't see me at all that day – or who I walk by without them noticing. By wearing a hooded sweatshirt and jeans, do I disappear into the crowd?
2. I am tired. Needing to shift my mental gears from physics to French to trigonometry to world cultures and finally to English was tiring. Flies, Gustavo and coffee all helped to keep me awake. By the end of the day I was burned. Looking at the assignment sheets, I am overwhelmed by the number of assignments I would need to balance and keep organized. I imagine trying to find the time to do it all if I worked after school or took part in sports.
3. I was hungry. .75 on coffee, .50 on milk, .75 on a pop tart, 4.25 on lunch, and .75 on cookies from the vending machine. Without easy access to a refrigerator to store my lunch, my options are limited.
4. I am tired of people. I missed having a quiet place to study and to drink a coffee or a place to close myself away from people. These are things I took for granted as a teacher.

The clock hits 2:30 and the day is over. I'm back into my role as a teacher as I go to my room and collect papers that were due and look over my sub's notes. This day helped me to gain perspective on the lives of my students. They are busy; they are tired; they are trying to focus on English when 20 minutes ago they were asked to focus on science or math or any one of a dozen different things. They are often anonymous, filing past my classroom door. And at the end of the day they go on to jobs or activities, the demands of family and friends. And the next day we ask them to come in and do it all over again. Being a student just for a day... sucked.

24 Hours in Bed



Twenty-four hours in bed; I don't know how I came to this decision, but I know it was an idea sparked by Ryan Hubbard, a man who spends countless hours in bed keeping himself occupied. I decided against seeking his wisdom as to how to keep myself entertained. I was going to have to do this myself. I knew it wasn't going to be easy, but I was ready for the task ahead.

1:00 PM: The anticipation is overwhelming. As soon as I get home from school I'm frantically getting all of my stuff together. After about 45 minutes of searching, I have an immense collection of DVDs, CDs, books and I proceed to set them up next to my bed. Finally I take a shower and get ready for the experience.

2:25: I lay down in bed; the experiment has begun. The first thing I do is pop in *Saw* and begin to watch.

24 hours in bed continued on page 12

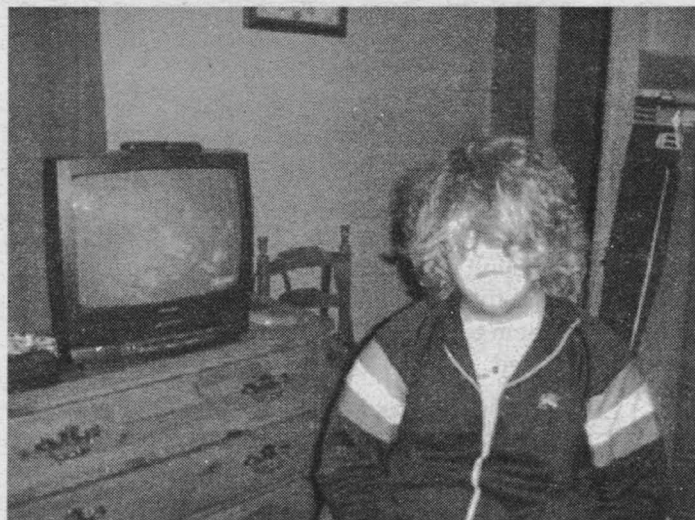
On Christmas day in 1977 Charlie Chaplin actor (Modern Times), died in Switzerland at the age of 88

24 hours in bed continued from page 11

- 3:15: My first visit of the day is my little brother Donovan. He is excited to see that I'm watching *Saw* and we watch the rest of the movie together.
- 4:25: After the movie, Donovan leaves me to myself. I bust out the laptop and sign on to Instant Messenger. I am already skeptical about how I will keep myself occupied for 22 more hours.
- 5:20: Instant message from Flem14k: "I dunno, Ryan's running around naked in my house." These are my friends; luckily I don't think I'm missing much.
- 5:30: My mom gets home from work and pays me a visit. (For the record she will be referred to as Marion throughout the rest of the article). On another note, she mentions that my room smells bad which prompts me to open up my window.
- 6:40: After about an hour of TV and messing around on the computer, my friends Kevin Fleming and the master himself, Ryan Hubbard, pay a visit.
- 7:50: Marion surprises me with some Chinese food. I worry about the effects this could have on my stomach, but eat it nonetheless.
- 8:00: Ryan, Kevin and I see that the Oyster River vs. Souhegan soccer game is on DCAT, the Oyster River cable TV channel. Ryan and I both reminisce about the soccer team. God I miss soccer season. On another note, I must say that Mr. Murphy and Mr. Brewer did a great job broadcasting this game, I thank them a lot.
- 9:35: Ryan and Kevin say goodbye and leave me once again to my lonesome. On a side note, after saying that he was going to spend a good portion of the time with me, Donovan has left for good and I will not see him again until the experience is over. What a backstabber.
- 10:30: I get a call from my older brother Ben and we discuss the details about my upcoming college visit to his college, Salve Regina. I can hear people having fun in the background and grow increasingly more frustrated.
- 11:15: Marion gives my cell phone a call from downstairs asking if I need anything. She tries to get me out of bed to brush my teeth; however I do not succumb to her ploy.
- 11:30: Marion makes her final appearance of the night and brings my toothbrush and a cup of water. After I finish she kisses me goodnight. I must thank my mom for her role in this experience, I couldn't have done it without her.
- 4:30 AM: I awake with the lights still on and headphones around my head. In a daze, I shut the lights off, turn on the fan and go back to sleep.
- 8:30: I awake for good and think to myself: "only 5 hours and 55 minutes to go."
- 10:00: I put *Fight Club* into the DVD player and within 30 seconds there is a technological malfunction. I am absolutely livid. I am cursing my TV and DVD player, I am completely deranged. Luckily, the plugs connecting my DVD player to the TV are in the front of the TV, so I miraculously reach across the room while standing on the edge of my bed and adjust the cords, almost injuring myself in the process. That was a close call.
- 12:25: After watching arguably one of the best movies of all time, I look at the clock and see that exactly two hours remain.
- 2:15: Ten minutes to go, I'm getting antsy.
- 2:25: The task has been completed. As I take the step out of bed my legs almost give out. They feel very achy and unused. I feel very disgusting after having lain in bed for that long so the first thing I do is hop in the shower.
- Overall it was an interesting experience and I must say that it wasn't as bad as I thought. I was lucky enough to have plenty of support to help me get through the experience. While I had fun in the process and got to experience something new, I never want to do this again.

24 Hours of The Lifetime Network

Greyson Ersick News/Features



Greyson - in his post-Lifetime stupor.
Note the resemblance to a Muppet.

probably the worst only third to the Country Music Channel and C-Span. Not only do they show repeats of some of the worst shows ever made, but they feature a mind numbingly bad array of movies that all center around the same general plot; either a murder mystery, a love story, or about domestic violence, sometimes they're about all three. I couldn't last. I could only watch for 12 hours. If I have to watch another episode of *The Golden Girls* I think my head

Television they say, rots the brain, this is very true. One can hardly watch TV for only a few hours before you're mind goes numb. Can someone really watch TV for 24 hours? Sure maybe they could. But could I watch the Lifetime Channel for 24 hours? No! Out of all the channels on TV Lifetime is

will explode.

The following experiment took place between the hours of 10:00 AM and 10:00 PM.

The day begins. I made sure I got plenty of rest; I got some Sun Chips and Wheat Thins and about 3 cans of soda that would last me until around 3:00 PM when I would have to switch to the downstairs TV.

10:00 AM: *Frasier*: Frasier has a fling with a swimsuit model while on vacation in Mexico, but his family and friends don't believe him. (I don't know if it was the fact that I just began, but this show was kind of funny)

10:30 AM: *Frasier*: Frasier and his brother fight to one-up each other on getting a better gift for their father's birthday (still only slightly funny).

11:00 AM: *Will and Grace*: The awesome Jeff Goldblum guest starred on this episode. Basically he tried to take over a company owned by the girl with the annoying voice, I think her name is Karen (*Will and Grace* is really not funny at all, the only character I find likeable is the clichéd gay guy).

11:30 AM: *Will and Grace*: Another episode featured guest-star Lilly Tomlin who's pretty annoying. Will is trying to get promoted (once again this show fails to make me laugh).

12:00 AM: *The Golden Girls*: I'm not lying - this is really the plot. A woman is in love with a midget but her friends aren't happy about the relationship. The midget then breaks up with the girl because she's not Jewish (*The Golden Girls*; what can I possibly say about this show besides that it is full of awkward sexual relationships with old people, really I don't need to know about Bea Arthur's sex life).

24 Hours of Lifetime continued on page 13

44.5 million is the preliminary estimate of the number of turkeys Minnesota expected to raise in 2005. It is followed by North Carolina (36.0 million), Arkansas (29.0 million), Virginia (21.0 million), and Missouri (20.5 million).

24 hours watching Lifetime continued from page 12

12:30 AM: The Golden Girls: A woman is convinced that she's cursed when she sleeps with a man and he dies in the morning. (Why, why, why, oh why am I watching this?).

1:00 PM: The Nanny: I'd have to say Fran Drescher is pretty amazing; she's managed to be both the world's worst actor and the world's most annoying person. In this episode she dates a guy who's in the mafia.

1:30 PM: The Nanny: I honestly don't even know what was happening during this episode. Somehow something about Fran being a costume manager.

2:00 PM: To Love Honor and Betray: Pretty much this woman's mother is murdered and the only suspect is her father but in the end it turns out the killer was the woman's husband. Lame acting, lame story, typical Lifetime Movie.

4:00 PM: The Golden Girls: This time an hour long special. Oh wonderful, some crazy story that I just couldn't pay attention to. (Perhaps the worst show to ever to be on television)

5:00 PM: Still Standing: This show's ok, some funny parts, I really can't focus on this channel anymore or anything for that matter. I take a quick break to heat up some buffalo wings and mozzarella sticks to get an ounce of my masculinity back.

5:30 PM: Still Standing: Kind of funny, but I just can't focus anymore. I feel really depressed and tired and just bored in general.

6:00 PM: Reba: Who lets musicians have their own TV show? Seriously, when has this formula ever worked? Sure variety shows hosted by musicians are okay, but a sitcom? Not only is she a musician, but she is a country musician. I really can't stand doing this anymore. My head is going to explode. I went as far as thinking I'd rather die than be watching this.

6:30: Reba (.....)

7:00: Still Standing: Okay, now I can't get into this show anymore.

8:00: Reba: Why?!

8:30: Reba: Why?!

9:00: Monarch Cove: This is it, I'm done, I can't take it anymore. I feel gross, I need a shower.

Well there you have it. You may be able to watch TV for 24 hours, but if it's the Lifetime Channel, you can't; simple as that.

24 Hours of Videogames



Joe Gehling Sports Writer

When I told my friends what I was about to attempt, they all scoffed and said it was not possible. They said that what I was setting out to do could not be done. Evan Lonstein said that when he did it for merely eight hours, he was "tingly, and felt really weird." I was about to embark on a 24 hour journey through soccer pitches, ancient battlefields, football fields, the emptiness of space, basketball courts, snow covered mountains, and booming metropolises. I was about to try and play 24 hours of non-stop videogames (give or take a few minutes for eating, drinking, and using the restroom).

I would have liked to start playing at 5:00, but I had to play soccer, so I began my ordeal at 8:30. I was really tired when I started, so I had serious doubts that I would be able to last for 24 hours. I had called some friends and invited them to help the time go by faster, but they were not going to arrive until 10:00ish, so I had to start playing all by myself, and I realized that I would not last long at all without some companionship or coffee.

The first game I played was Madden NFL 2007. I thought I could play an entire season, but I forgot how frustrating that game can get. I ended up playing for a little over an hour, throwing my controller numerous times, and then re-starting the PS2 when my friends arrived.

While my friends were here, time went by a lot faster, and it was actually really fun. By the time they left, it was already 2:00a.m. I only played one game all through the darkness. FIFA 06 lasted me until 11:00 in the morning. I played over 20 games, and almost finished a season in the English Premier League playing as the Tottenham Hotspurs. I finished with a winning record, and won the League Cup.

When my friends left, I began to feel a little tired. At 3:00 I got a second wind, and was temporarily re-energized, and this might have been because I had just reeled off four straight, intense victories for the Spurs. When 5:00 rolled around, I began to get the makings of a headache, and my eyes were feeling a little weird.

I was bleary eyed, and my eyes seemed to always be watering.

The sun came up at 6:35, and I was again re-energized by the coming of a new day. The night had gone by a lot faster than I thought it would, and it was surprisingly easy to do. The early morning went by fairly smooth, but mid-morning was tough. At 10:00 I thought to myself that this was not that hard, and I felt like I was almost done. But then I realized that I was barely halfway there. I calculated that I still had 10 and a half hours to go. Also, as the day came to life, I was consumed by the feeling that I was a total loser, and that I was wasting away my life, by sitting in front of a TV, for a mind-numbing amount of time. To get myself through the day, I kept telling myself that after this game I can take a break, but when the game ended, I'd say, "Well I guess I'll just play another..." That worked for a little while, but it drained me of any spirit that I had left.

At 1:00 when I stood up to stretch I got very light headed and had to sit back down. I was feeling very out of it, and I had a slight headache. By 1:30 I was numb and incredibly exhausted. My lunch break could not have come at a better time. When I finished my lunch, and continued playing FIFA 06, I was becoming so bored that I got worse at the game. I started making major mental mistakes that cost me a couple of victories. It was so frustrating that I quit without saving so I could re-play the games, but I still lost. I was becoming so discouraged that I switched to playing Star Wars Battlefront.

I fought with the Rebels and the Empire until 3:30 when my friends came over to help me struggle through the rest of the day. We played some Star Wars, but mostly we played James Bond Nightfire, the second best Bond game ever made. We shot it out in Phoenix Base, Snow Blind, and Sky Rail. They left at 6:30 and I was again all alone in my fight against exhaustion and boredom and the Empire.

When I finally finished at 8:30, 24 hours after I started, I ate dinner then went right to sleep. I was exhausted, I had a painful headache, and was feeling very numb. My eyesight was blurry, and my eyes would not stop watering.

Had I not had friends come by and visit me, I do not think that I would have been able to make it through all 24 hours. I would have fallen asleep, or just given up because of the boredom. I felt like a massive geek, and I am not going to play any videogames for at least a week.

24 Hours tied together with Lauren Anderson



Caitlin Byrne News/Features

Twenty four hours being tied together. Why I decided to put myself through this task I do not know. However, I can thank Mrs. Kucera for the idea. I was excited at the idea of spending time with one of my closest friends. But wow, I did not think about all the things we would have to do

together...ALL of them.

4:00 p.m. As Lauren and I rush around to shower and go to the bathroom, we are trying to crunch in certain activities that we know we will have difficulty doing when we are tied together by the wrists.

4:15 p.m. Blake Janelle and Alec Schidlovsky are at my house to tie us together. As they place the first knot in the scarf I already know this is going to be a long 24 hours. After being tied together we decided to do something relaxing that wouldn't make us go crazy within the first hour. TV seemed like the perfect option.

4:32 p.m. After watching only 17 minutes of Oprah and listening to Blake complain about it Lauren already has to go to the bathroom. Yes, we did have to use the bathroom together, and we did it successfully. We tried to keep as much privacy as possible.

5:30p.m. Lucy Lent comes over and we decide to go to Burger King then to the coffee house. As Lauren and I stand up to get our cell phones we both pull the opposite way and have our first encounter bumping into one another.

5:32 p.m. Our first time driving. After arguing about which car to take we decide on Lauren's. I have my right wrist tied to her left so I get the task of driving. Since we are tied together, Lauren was forced to climb over the driver's seat. Her first yell of frustration is noted.

6:15 p.m. After easily getting to Burger King, Lauren and I climb out of my car and walk into the Coffee House. All is going well except for the fact that she wishes to sit in a chair, while I prefer to lay on the ground. Our first compromise makes me happy and I am able to lie on the ground comfortably.

10:30 After getting chips and salsa to eat we sat down to watch some TV. Lauren decided she wanted to type college mailing addresses. Even from the sound of this I knew it would be difficult.

With my hand flopping along beside hers she typed all 2 pages of those suckers.

Yes, we did have to use the bathroom together, and we did it successfully.

I think at the end my wrist was red from all of the beating it took...

11:30 p.m. Changing for bed. This took a long time. About 15 minutes to be exact. After brushing our teeth, we laid in Lauren's bed. This worked because both of us sleep on our stomachs and face our heads in the opposite directions. Although our hands were tied together we were able to easily fall asleep.

4:37 a.m. Lauren and I both woke up because we both were trying to shake our hands off one another. After sighing with disapproval we then tried to roll over. With a grunt of anger we both fell back asleep.

8:15 a.m. With the alarm clock going off in the background, we got out of bed slowly and began the difficult task of changing back into normal clothes. 17 minutes later we were finished and decided Dunkin Donuts would be quick

and easy for a good breakfast

8:43a.m. With food in hand, well in one at least, we drove back to school and got ready for physics. Since it was a Wednesday block day both Lauren and I have the same two classes: Physics and Advanced Topics in World Cultures.

9:11a.m. We both forgot that today we were shooting rockets off outside for a lab. As we trucked outside with our trust lab partners Sara Powell and Liz Hamer, we were assigned the task of pumping air into the rocket.

10:30 a.m. Returning inside to put away the lab supplies

Lauren and I were at ends with one another. Both feeling uncomfortable and tired we knew all we had to do in the next class was watch a movie.

10:45 a.m. While laying down on the floor in Advanced Topics in World Cultures, Lauren and I finally were comfortable.

12:15 p.m. At the end of the day we mutually decided, more on my part, that it was time to end our escapade. Both feeling anxious and cranky, I knew I couldn't take anymore. We finally untied the scarf.

"You really learn to appreciate alone time!" said Lauren Anderson

After being tied together with Lauren for 24 Hours I would have to agree. Technically it wasn't a full 24 hours but 20 hours is close enough! Having someone constantly next to you can be frustrating, even more so it's so uncomfortable. Overall the experience was...different. Every little task that you do in every day life is now subject to being made difficult because of the other body attached to you. Although I enjoyed spending time with one of my best friends, being tied together with someone overall...sucks.

24 Hours with no thumbs



Sam Kerrigan Op-ed Department

For 24 hours I lived with no thumbs.

My experiment was to go for 24 hours without the use of my thumbs. One might think this is not that difficult, but they clearly have never done it. I started out at 6:20 p.m. I taped my thumbs to the rest of my hand so they were pretty much immobile.

As I took notes I immediately realized writing was going to be quite a struggle. I've never been the most talented kid when it comes to handwriting, but this was outrageous. My handwriting was significantly worse than my 8 year old brother's.

My next task was eating, which also proved to be extremely difficult. Luckily it was finger food so I didn't have to use a fork but by no means was it easy. Pouring milk was no walk in the park either, and I missed the cup on my first attempt.

At about 8 p.m. I started my homework which consisted of typing. With the exception of hitting the space bar this was not as hard as one would expect. After a little typing I decided it was time for bed. Then came my most difficult obstacle, the pants. I will not lie to you when I say it took me a solid ten minutes to get undressed. The button on my pants was an absolute killer.

I slept well despite my thumbs being taped; I awoke to my normal routine which consisted of showering, getting dressed, eating and then brushing my teeth. I must say all of my morning activities turned out to be very sub par. The first four periods of school were pretty easy considering I was on a fieldtrip at UNH. The troubles of my day came when lunch arrived. I decided to get a lunch that involved utensils; what I was thinking I do not know. I ate my meal all the while listening to my friends chuckle about my spoon holding techniques.

24 Hours with no thumbs continued on page 15

\$506 million was the amount of money the nation's Christmas tree farmers received from tree sales in 2004.

24 hours with no thumbs continued from page 14

My next period class was forensics and I was pleasantly surprised to hear we would be taking notes for the majority of my class. The notes, as one would suspect, were not an easy task, but I made it work. The rest of my school day wasn't that difficult and at 2:30 I proceeded to go home as usual.

Once I got home I considered just taking it off because it was annoying me and I had to type a paper but I was persuaded to keep it on for the remaining 3 hours and 20 minutes.

I went about my final hours by watching tv (Drake and Josh, with the little brothers, and Oprah with my mom) and I also played xbox with my brother. Xbox, as one can imagine, was a bit difficult. Any true gamer knows that their thumbs play a crucial role in gaming. I was forced to rotate my hand positioning so that my index fingers were taking the place of my thumbs, which was very awkward.

Once 6:20 came around I immediately cut off the tape washed my hands and that was that. I had finished 24 hours without thumbs successfully.



Cassie deAlba

Op-Ed department



Allison Krzanowski News/
Features

24 Hours playing board games

Explaining to people why we were playing board games for 24 hours was tough. Surviving 24 hours of board games was even tougher. Here are some excerpts from our extensive logs of the event:

experience I've had in a long time.

3:52 AM "Don't Break The Ice" is the poor man's heroin. I am so, so addicted.

4:00- **TWISTER on the fours! We decided to play twister every time the hour is four. This time, it's outside on Cassie's front lawn.**

5:25- Commercial for "Guys gone wild: Dude, Where's My Pants?"

5:48 AM Allison tries to take a nap, but is foiled by an anti-tobacco ad featuring voiceless singing cowboys.

6:01 AM Allison falls asleep, but I wake her up and inform her that a "Dungeons and Dragons" cartoon is on. She does not seem amused.

7 PM Allison arrives. We set up. My living room is like a vast sea of board games, and some "exciting food." Emily Cataneo and Kiegan Munn, Allison's friend from York, keep us company and bet that we won't last the night. (Allison's log is in bold.)

7:30- Board games begin- Taboo with Emily and Spaniard/Kiegan. Kiegan doesn't know English enough to properly play taboo. "Hey! I know English, I just don't know American culture". The Spaniard and I lose 16-36.

8:13 PM Emily and I are beating Allison and Kiegan at Taboo. Kiegan: "My sister likes to do this off the bed...no, on the bed...no, wait..." ("jump")

9:10 PM Allison takes a Scrabble turn equivalent, in length, to two Led Zeppelin songs. Kiegan has to help her out by spelling "cove."

8:40- **I get 10 points for AA and LA.**

9:50 PM We walk downtown, while playing Go Fish, to buy posterboard to keep a final score tally on. The draw pile is in my coat pocket. It's kind of awkward.

10:02- **Don't Break the Ice. Reaches for playing cards instead of mallet**

10:29- My first time playing Candyland. I think. I don't understand the rules.

10:46- Game two: stuck in gooey gumdrop. Again. (10:46.5- Out of gooey gumdrop)

10:51- Cassie is stuck in gooey ~~grop~~... gooey... gumdrop. (Cassie hits me in head with Don't Break the Ice mallet.)

11:05- Make plans for underwear shopping Wednesday.

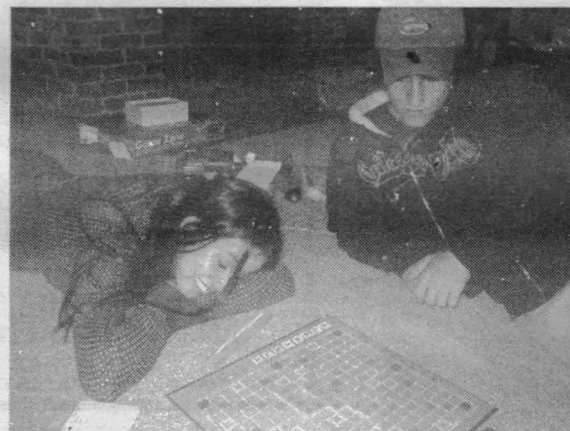
11:48 PM Boggle and emo music!

MIDNIGHT The ouija board tells us that there are emo spirits in the room and we are the most awesome people on MOR.

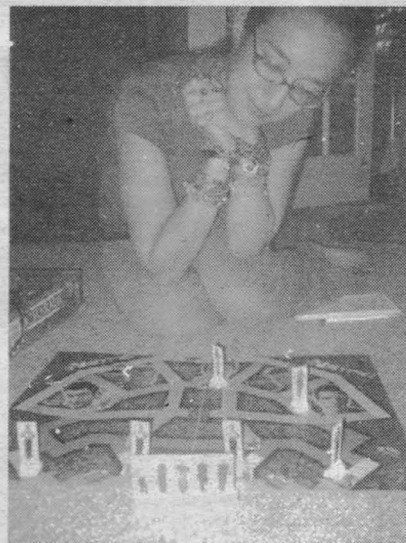
12:41 AM "Allison, are you falling asleep?"

"No, my eyes are open; I'm staring at pretzels."

2:05 AM Now we are doing puzzles and watching 'Strictly Sex With Dr. Drew.' This may be the most disturbing TV



Allison falling asleep next to the Scrabble board at 8 p.m.



Cassie wins the N'Sync Backstage Pass game at 1 p.m.

7:07- Headed to Young's for Breakfast with Mad Gab and Uno.

8:25 AM Puzzle, Sesame Street. We now know how to play with babies and that the letter of the day is K.

10:14 AM Watching more Everwood and ATTACKING THE PUZZLE. I now feel incredibly awake, which is probably not a good sign.

11:02- We play Mad Gab and neither of us can get a single point.

11:04- We had cards on wrong side. We try again and now feel smarter. Talking really fast and mumbling my words together seems to be my forte.

12:25 PM We are playing "N'Sync: Backstage Pass." I feel like up until this point my life has been a vast web of lies, and now I have broken through all that and truly seen the light. It is a glorious, glorious day.

1:42 PM It is raining out. Allison's Upwords turns are

even longer than her Scrabble turns. Also, she just tried to spell "nooses" with a "u" and a "c."

2:45 PM Taboo, again— Me: "It sounds like a large animal that lives in the woods..."

Allison: "ELEPHANT!"

4:05 PM INDOOR Twister on the 4s = a rousing success, at least until I am no longer able to remember color names.

5:00- Cassie and I hear voices. After a few minutes we start to wonder who they might be. We get up and move towards door. Neither of us can balance or walk in a straight line at this point. Voices turn out to be Amanda and Jan.

5:30- Disney Trivial Pursuit. I lie about how many spaces forward I move so I don't have to answer any more questions because I can't focus.

7:00 PM Board games end without fanfare. I still feel strangely alert. Decide to go to sleep anyway.

The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green and can be utilized in decorations for Kwanzaa.

The Official Mouth of the

Wildcat Pizza

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MOR Pick: The Cheese Pizza



Wings Your Way

Wings Your Way features a wide variety of chicken wing flavors from very mild to reallllly hot.

MOR Pick: The Monica Lewinski



JP's Eatery

Classic subs with a classic college sub shop atmosphere.

MOR Pick: The Jumbo Buff Chick Sub



River Durham Dining Guide



Breaking New Grounds

A classic coffee shop atmosphere, with a variety of different coffee flavors. Also try some Gelato Italian Ice Cream.

MOR Pick: Vanilla Latte

Franz's Food

Not too much of an atmosphere unless you're into washing machines. But they have a real variety of sandwiches and other foods.

MOR Pick: The Golden Fries, The Juanna Burger



Young's

A nice family style breakfast place where the coffee flows like the salmon of the Capistrano or you can just get a classic breakfast meal.

MOR Pick: Anything

Kwanzaa culminates in a big feast on the last evening of the holiday, on December 31 called Karamu

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Mouth of the River

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2. Articles shall not be hurtful or target individuals
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4. Don't plagiarize or fabricate
5. Put the interests of the paper ahead of your own.
6. Articles should be appealing and make the reader want to read them.
7. The newspaper should look like a professional publication – with eye-catching pictures, design and articles.
8. The paper should be fun for everyone.
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10. Avoid bias in articles, excluding op-ed.

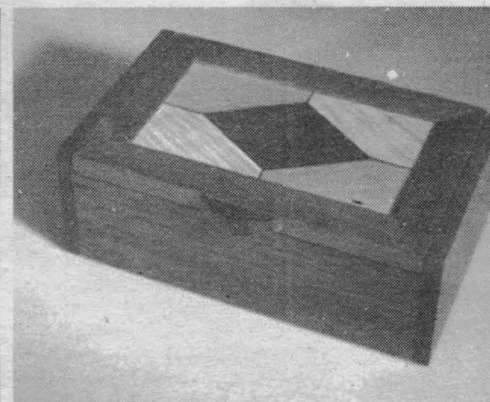
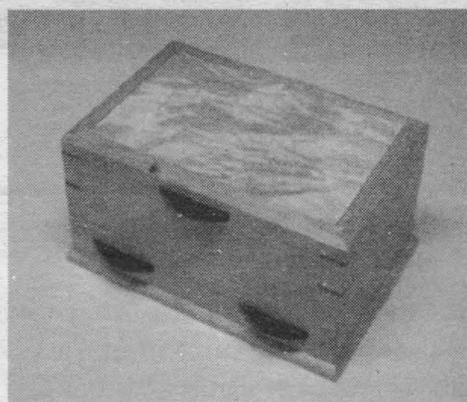
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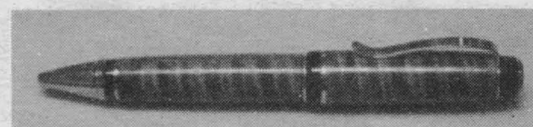
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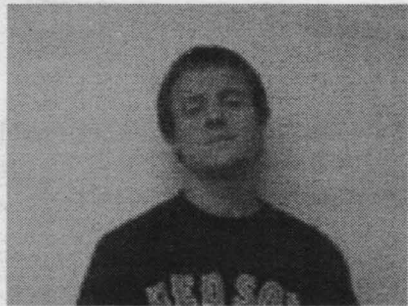
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Saint Nicholas Day was originally December 6, this was the original day when kids got presents from saint Nicholas.



Blair Kelley Op-Ed Department

Letter From the Editor: Soccer

The site is Stellos Stadium in Nashua. It's the semi final game between the two most prestigious soccer schools in New Hampshire Class I soccer: the Hanover Marauders and obviously my team, the Oyster River Bobcats. The game has been hard fought and we find ourselves battling into overtime. Suddenly a ball is played into the box and Casey Maue of Hanover taps a shot into the back of the net. Just like that, my high school soccer career is over. Everyone is devastated; you would be hard pressed to find a dry eye on that field. Although we did not end up on top, I still had the time of my life these past two years and it's something I'll never forget.

Oyster River soccer is one of the most historic programs you can find in this high school. While the years have passed and different classes have come and gone, soccer has been

the one team that has kept a common theme: winning. Oyster River soccer has hoisted the banner 11 times during its existence. Although I didn't have the honor of winning a state championship, just to play on such a great team made the experience worth it.

The one thing that I will definitely take with me from these past two years is the camaraderie that these teams have possessed. Over this span, I have made some great friends who otherwise I probably never would have spoken to. We had an awesome time on the field, but an equally fun time off of it.

Oyster River soccer has a common tradition of having team dinners the nights before games. This is where a lot of the true bonding took place. The purpose of these "spags," as they're called is to have some dinner with the team and then be on your way. Our team, however, took this to the next level. Countless nights the team would spend over two hours together hanging out at one of our teammates houses. These, just as much as the games, will be the moments I remember. The time spent off the field was crucial whether it was watching a team movie or our annual team haircut, all of these moments were what made soccer such a special and unique experience.

Getting to the playing aspect, I couldn't have asked for a more talented group of kids to play with. Although we didn't win, if just one bounce had gone our way I'd probably be writing about how great it is to win a state championship. The players on these past two teams have all possessed the heart and desire essential to being an elite team. This was evident even during practices; people would be hustling from start to finish with minimal complaint. We all knew what we wanted to accomplish and we all had the focus to get the job done. These great practices also translated into the games. Over my two years on varsity, we had a record of 30-7-1, an astounding accomplishment.

To put it in simple terms, I'm extremely proud to have played Oyster River soccer. It is an honor to get to play for such an illustrious program. The guys on the team are what made this experience so amazing and I want to thank anyone involved with the soccer program over my high school tenure, it has been a privilege.



Letters to the Editor: GSA

To the ORHS community:

How many of you know that Oyster River High School has a Gay-Straight Alliance? Not many people seem to, yet it's existed for longer than we've been here. A lot of people have asked me why it exists: the short answer is that we're devoted to promoting tolerance and acceptance at ORHS and in the community in general. In the past we have done fundraising, movie nights, and many other fun activities, all of which we hope to continue this year. A common misconception is that GSA is only for gay people, but everyone is welcome at our meetings (Wednesdays after school in T206, if you're interested). We hope to see you there!

-The members of GSA

Support the F.O.R.T.

If you have been in the Oyster River School District for a few years, you may remember the big signs posted in front of each school with the picture of a big shoe pointed toe up and dollar amounts as milestones painted next to it. As time passed the shoe would fill up with red, indicating the money being raised. The money was being raised to build an all weather, 8 lane track at the Oyster River High School and inside it there would be a high quality field for varsity soccer and field hockey. What ever happened to that plan?

I remember running a 5k road race called the *Support the F.O.R.T.* every year on the fourth of July, and after each one the red area on the shoe would jump up quite a bit. 3 or 4 years ago the entire shoe filled up with red and we had collected all the necessary money, so they took down the signs and...no track. What ever happened to Friends of Oyster River Track (F.O.R.T.)? It has been years, and the school board still hasn't decided to do anything with the money. I spoke with Todd Allen, who is one of the people in charge of F.O.R.T., and he says that the money is just in a savings account, waiting to be used. How long does it take to make plans to build a track? We've collected the money...why hasn't it been used?

I was excited when all the money was collected, thinking that the track might be finished before I graduated from high school, and I would be able to use it, but at the rate that this is going the class of 2020 won't get to see this track. The community came together to raise money for this track; and did it! We raised \$250,000 and the school board isn't using it! What does that say to everyone who worked so hard to raise money for this track? I urge the school board to hurry up and use the money that's just sitting in a box and build the Oyster River Track! -Gabriel Dorfsman Hopkins

For more info see <http://www.freewebs.com/ortrack/>

In the United States, the most common Hanukkah food is latkes, or potato pancakes, a custom that may have developed in Eastern Europe.

Three Thoughts: Music Downloading

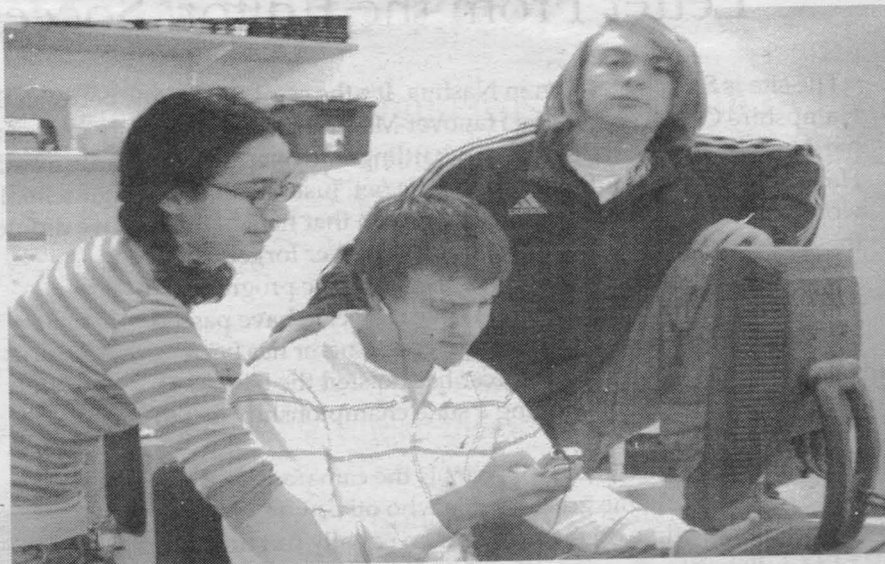
There is a constant debate about music downloading and whether it is ethical or not. Regardless of what anyone thinks or even what the law states, people are going to download music and probably get away with it. While artists might get mad and lose some money due to these downloads, there is no stopping this process. I, however, have come up with some simple guidelines as to how downloading music should be dealt with.

I download music. I have Limewire installed on my computer and I download songs on a regular basis. I used to download anything I felt like, but I started to develop a little bit of a guilty conscience a couple of years ago. It was at that point that I came up with a "code," you could say, on what is acceptable downloading. Basically, I decide if the band is important enough to me so that I would feel guilty if I didn't purchase one of their albums. There are only about five to ten artists that I don't download music of. Among these are Tom Petty, Pearl Jam and a few others. These bands have had so big of an impact on my perception of music that I could never do that to them.

While I have set up this system for myself, there are others who feel strongly about each side of the argument.

"I feel like they deserve the credit," said Senior Erin Dwyer. "I'd rather buy the CD and give them the money they worked for." On the other side of the spectrum, people like Kevin Fleming feel that it is perfectly fine to download music. "It's a way to save money and if you do it safely, you're not putting yourself at risk," said Fleming.

Overall I do feel that it is unfair to the artist to download their music that they worked hard to create, but I don't feel bad enough to stop doing it. It is illogical to go out and buy a CD just because I want to hear one song. If I like the band enough, I'm going to want to buy most of their CDs anyway, so downloading isn't even an issue with them. However, if I hear a new song from some band that isn't that important to me, I don't even hesitate to download it. It takes something special to be able to reach my no-download list; it's nothing against these bands.



"If I was a musician, I wouldn't want people to download my music, I'd be pissed," said freshmen Johnny O'Brien on downloading music.

I personally think downloading music online is perfectly legit. The government tried to end illegal downloading and it didn't stop. So why even try? Is the question I ask myself. If people are going to download either way, there is no sense in trying to fight it. The artists argue that if they lose a lot of money because of this, but in reality they make most of their money from concerts and other events rather than the purchasing of CDs.

I use iTunes, which is a very legal way to download. I also get a lot of my music from friends sending it to me and they get it from sources such as Limewire. I think as long as you aren't selling the music you download there really isn't any problem in getting some good music for cheap. In perspective the artists are still making millions of dollars so the downloading of a few songs doesn't hurt them. The fans might actually go out and buy their CD after they have heard a few songs.

This instance can be compared to the *Betamax* case, which in 1984 was a case involving the video industry and the makers of VCRs. The video industry was feeling threatened by the development of VCRs, they thought VCRs would undermine their business. The case went to court and as you probably could have guessed the VCR developers won. Now the two industries work hand in hand.

In my opinion this situation could work out very similarly to the *Betamax* case. If the musicians would just work with these downloading programs they could both get what they wanted.

In conclusion, I think the downloading of music should most definitely be a perfectly legal thing to do. The artists should realize they are still going to be making millions of dollars and a few free songs from the internet isn't that big of a deal.

I refuse to say whether or not I illegally download music on the grounds that it might incriminate me. No, really: people are being prosecuted for this crime every day. It's a crime that most of us commit, and don't really think much of. But it is really so bad? I don't think so.

Hypothetically, let's say that I did illegally obtain music. While it's true that the artists whose music I'm listening to wouldn't be getting my money would probably be learning about different musicians I

wouldn't have heard about normally. This would lead me to go out and purchase their CDs, concert tickets, merchandise, etc, thus giving more money to the music industry than if I hadn't downloaded anything illegally.

As long as it's technologically possible, illegal downloading will probably continue. But is this necessarily a bad thing? Hypothetically, let's say that I've learned about most of the music I now listen to (and tell you to listen to every issue) by illegally downloading a few songs. In this situation, the music industry would be better off than if illegal downloading didn't exist.

I know that overall the recording industry is suffering, and I can't deny the fact that illegal downloading probably affects this. But has anyone ever stopped to consider that this may be due to what the recording industry is recording? In the middle of writing this article, I went downstairs and turned on MTV2 (MTV 1 was, naturally, showing "My Super Sweet 16") The first song I tuned into featured someone who wanted to inform me that "got the Louis Vuitton belt buckle holding the glock." "MTV Hits" was playing Nickelback. Just putting that out there.

I know that some people are perfectly happy, especially in the age of iPods, to only have mp3s of their favorite music, but I genuinely like owning a CD. And if I hypothetically download a few songs here and there, is that really a crime?

Left Column-Blair Kelley
Center Column-Sam Kerrigan
Right Column-Cassie de Alba

Many traditional Hanukkah foods are cooked in oil, in remembrance of the oil that burned in the temple.

Gossip Girls



Sam Kerrigan Op-Ed Department

To try and understand this a little better I tried to see what it would be like to act as one of these girls for a while. I asked some of my friends if they would like to accompany me on various adventures around the school. As I expected I didn't get quite the reaction I was hoping for. When I asked if they wanted to go get some food with me, I was answered with an abrupt "I'm not hungry." When I asked if one of my boys wanted to join me in a trip to the facilities I got some awkward looks followed by answers along the lines of "why would I ever want to do that?"

Picture yourself walking down a crowded hall only to be nearly trampled by a herd of girls, you think to yourself what was the meaning for this? As you turn around to see what's the matter you notice the herd has migrated to the bathroom. Your mind then might begin to wonder why? Maybe they just had to go real bad, but the truth is a mystery. No one knows for sure what really goes on in there.

I've always found it a little strange when I see a group of five or six girls walk into the bathroom or go get some food at the exact same time. Could they possibly all have that sudden urge that propels them to use the facilities? Do they even go to the bathroom? And if no, what really goes on in there? These are all questions that run through the average high school guys mind when he sees one of these occurrences.

The group trips don't just end at the bathroom; smaller groups of girls can be seen gathering in the lunch line and in halls during class. The big issue I have with this is the extra girls in the lunch line that just happen to be there because one of their girlfriends wanted to chat. The lunch line is already crowded, if you're not getting food you don't belong there, bottom line.

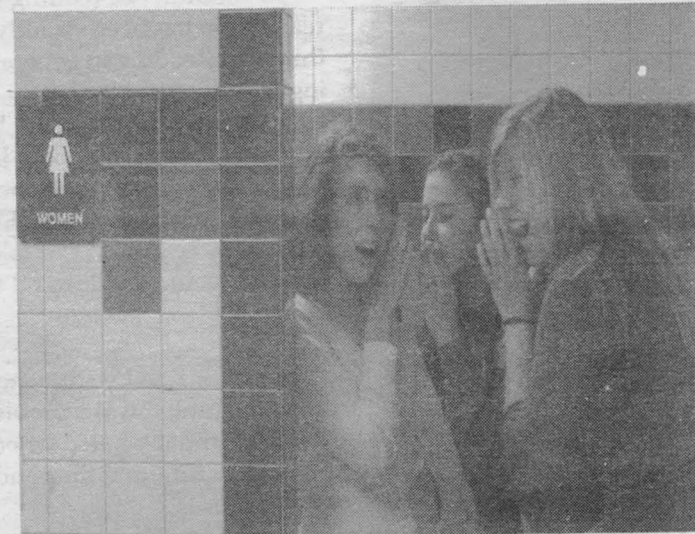
Apparently I'm not the only one this matter raises some questions with, Junior Matt Campbell says, "I have no idea why they do it, no one knows what goes on in the bathrooms, they probably just talk about us. If I had to guess I would say they are just self conscious and they need help." I tried to understand this whole issue a little better by talking to the best source available: females...

Sophomore Lauren Belaidi said, "I don't really think I'm like that, but some of my friends are. I think it's either because they aren't that independent or they don't like to be seen alone." That concept is a little hard for me to handle, I don't know about everyone else, but I feel perfectly fine peeing by myself. But it does give me a little relief knowing all girls don't need to be in a group at all times.

Chelsea Kolter has some explanations for the gatherings. "Girls use the extra bit of chatter for gossiping or maybe some make up time." My response to this is simple: gossip somewhere else. And as far as making up, try not to get in the little fights in the first place.

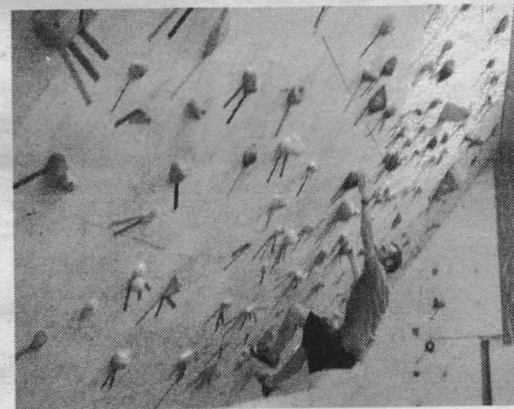
When asked if she used to gather in groups Mrs. Healy said, "I don't think so, I don't do it now. I think it has to do a lot with security, when they are in groups they know they are doing things not out of the ordinary, they get to feel like they belong."

In conclusion I'm still a little confused as to the logistics of the whole thing, but I'm more understanding as to why. The whole lunch line thing greatly annoys me but I'm ok with the group bathroom breaks, due to the fact that it has absolutely nothing to do with me.



A few girls gossiping away...in the bathroom

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When the Syrians forbade study of the Torah, Jews who studied in secret kept spinning tops, dreidels, on hand. This way, if they were found studying, they could pretend that they were playing.

Y Dont wE Reed?



CassiedeAlbaOp-EdDepartment

You shouldn't be reading this article: at least, not statistically. According to the Newspaper Association of America, newspaper readership has been steadily declining for decades: from 80.8% of adults in 1964 to 49.9% this year. Reading in general is less popular than ever, with more and more people turning to TV.

Personally, I love to read. I've had a book habit ever since I was a kid, and for a while I assumed that most people liked to read for fun. Apparently I was seriously misguided. Most people, it seems, do not like to read. The first person I interviewed for this article, a recent college graduate, told me he hadn't finished a book since junior high.

But why is this? We're told to read as small children! We have periods of our time in school specifically devoted to reading! We're assigned so much reading for our classes! We—

Oh.

The conclusion I've come to is that many people don't like to read because they're forced to, and I think this is a problem. I almost never enjoy books when I have to read them; on more than one occasion I've re-read a book I initially hated when reading it for class and found that I actually liked it. When you have to read a book in a certain amount of time and then endlessly discuss its every minute detail, you're hardly encouraged to read on your own time.

Kara Sullivan, an English teacher at Oyster River High School, says that she feels a personal obligation to help students read more. "For students who don't like to read," she says, "I give them access to books they never would have read otherwise." However, she does see problems with the system, in that "philosophically, it kind of seems like we're forcing [reading] down

their throats."

ORHS tries to encourage us to read with Just Read time, every fourth Wednesday of the month. But many students find that this is an insult to their intelligence level rather than a welcome addition to their day: after all, who doesn't remember DEAR time, or Drop Everything And Read, from elementary school? "It makes me angry," says Maggie Maloney, a senior. "I usually sleep through it."

Ms. Kentner, the ORHS librarian, wishes that Just Read helped the students, but concedes that "it's probably not an effective way to encourage people to read." Since she started working at ORHS, she has noticed a decline in the number of students who seem to really enjoy reading.

I think this is a real problem. According to the National Research Council, "The educational careers of 25 to 40 percent of American children are imperiled because they do not read well enough, quickly enough, or easily enough." But it's not only that: reading should be fun. It should be something that people enjoy doing, and it's just not. Books have always been a big part of my life, and reading has helped me gain perspective on the world, define my personality, and just escape for an hour or two.

School, however, doesn't help us view reading like this. Instead, we have to read on a deadline, over-analyze, and write papers about topics we don't necessarily care about. If anything, I think having to read for school makes students much less likely to read on their own time. I don't know exactly why reading has become so uncool, but I do know that the school isn't doing a very good job of encouraging people to pick up a book.

The problem with this? There probably isn't a way for the school to get everyone to love reading. However, the least they can do is make sure they don't discourage the kids who already like books. It would be nice to see English teachers offering kids more choices in what to read and how to respond to the reading, instead of shoving books at them and expecting them to find it fun.

What's the worst book you've ever had to read for school?

Walk Two Moons

Bleak House

The Color Purple

The Outsiders




Tuesdays With Morrie

Ethan Frome

Pride and Prejudice

Lord of the Flies

And the overwhelming least favorite? House on Mango Street.

"Our
goal
has been,

and
 always
will be, to
search out the
finest
local
growers &
 suppliers."

**durham
marketplace**

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The Puritans in America tried to make Thanksgiving Day the most important annual festival instead of Christmas.



Blair Kelley Op-Ed Department

The Rantings

For all of you who thought I was done with my rants, you were wrong; there are still so many problems to cover. I could go on and on about the things that make me mad, but I've decided to cut it down to two rants per issue. Enjoy and if there is anything that really enrages you that you think is worthy of writing about, send me a rant of your own in the form of a letter to the editor.

Issue # 1: Bad Drivers: This is quite possibly the issue that I feel most vehemently about. It is impossible to count how many times I have encountered

something when I've been driving that results in an outburst of unfiltered profanity. I hate bad drivers; it's that simple. I don't understand how people can make some of the driving mistakes that I constantly see; it baffles me. This issue cannot stay unnoticed. I will attempt to tackle the common tendencies of bad drivers and why it enrages me so much.

My personal pet peeve is when people take excessively wide turns and don't allow any space for someone to get around them. This also seems to be the same group of people who take about nine hours to turn even though there isn't another car in sight. I can't stand this. When you are taking a turn (right or left, it doesn't matter), make sure you hug the side of the road that you are turning on as much as possible. This creates a small, but sufficient enough space for the driver behind you to make a pass and keep the traffic flow going. Taking wide turns can severely slow down traffic and result in a lot of unhappy drivers.

Different people have different pet peeves, but there are definitely some that are worse than others.

Driving Pet Peeves

"I really hate it when people don't put their blinker on before they turn."

-Michael Sack

"People not waiting their turn at intersections."

-Corey Lewis

"Slow Drivers. That's so annoying."

-Eli Chinburg

"Old people."

-Leslie Claridge

"When they start tapping on the outside of their car."

-Lily Burtis

"Truck drivers and how they need their own lane."

-Chelsea Koltar

"If I let someone go and they don't acknowledge me."

-Owen Henn



Senior Blake Janelle is outraged at this bad driver.

"I hate it when they're slow," said Junior Lily

Burtis. This is very true, but I only get mad when people are going below the speed limit. I respect people who drive at the normal speed, even though it can be frustrating, because I realize I hate the person who rides my bumper even if I'm going the legal speed. Basically, drive at least the speed limit and tailgating becomes acceptable if the driver in front of you is going at least five below.

I could probably write a whole newspaper about bad driving maneuvers, but I thought I'd narrow it down to the few that really anger me. Some others that haven't been mentioned include: people who leave their blinkers on too long, people who peel out just to get attention and people who don't give the courtesy wave. These are all horrible acts and I won't be afraid to call someone out.

Issue # 2: Dane Cook: What I'm about to say is probably unthinkable to most and may even be taken as an insult. However, I'm willing to deal with the criticism and let my opinion be known: Dane Cook is not funny. Before you flip out and disagree in disgust, please just think about it. Does he have any clever jokes that make you really appreciate his work? No, all he does is scream in different voices and make thoughtless dirty jokes that he knows his fans will laugh at. The only thing he has going for him is that he has a good voice, that is it.

To make this argument easier to understand, all you have to do is look at another comedian who is known for his raunchy jokes: George Carlin. This is a man who knows what he's doing and really formulates his jokes. Just watch ten minutes of one of his shows and you will understand. The man is crafty; he words his jokes perfectly and you can tell that he puts a lot of thought into his standup. For those who don't know, Carlin is a student of the English language. He often speaks of his fascination with vocabulary and makes clever observations about language in our society. His comparisons are also dead on; he says what he thinks and he is often very harsh, but it's almost impossible to disagree with him. He is a very smart, thoughtful person who puts a lot of time into his work, unlike Dane Cook, who probably spends his time touching up his Myspace.

Now I know that there are plenty of Dane Cook fans out there and the majority of my readership will probably disagree with my claim and tell me why Dane Cook is actually funny.

"He says things that people usually don't dare to say out loud, but think about all the time," said Senior Carolyn Brennan. To be honest, Dane Cook might say things that a lot of people wouldn't, but nothing he says is controversial or will cause a big outcry from people. Another comedian to listen to is Dave Chappelle. This guy says things that people wouldn't dare to say because they know it could get them in trouble. These are the people I respect because they don't care what other people think at all, no matter how bad it might sound.

Overall, I just don't find Dane Cook funny. The first time I heard his comedy, I'll admit I thought it was decent, but after a while I realized it was just incoherent yelling. In my opinion, in order to be a good comedian, the person has to be intelligent and I just don't see this with Dane Cook. So the next time you decide to watch Dane Cook or listen to some of his standup, keep these thoughts in mind. You might be surprised.

More than 2 feet is the average depth of the snowfall each December in Valdez, Alaska; Mount Washington, New Hampshire; Blue Canyon, California; Yakutat, Alaska; Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan; Marquette, Mich.; Syracuse, New York; and Muskegon, Michigan.



Sam Kerrigan Op-Ed Department

Pretty Little Freshmen

I thought I had done a pretty good job teaching my brother the masculine qualities he would need in order to survive in the world. But apparently I was wrong.

This past summer I came home to find bags full of clothing from American Eagle Outfitters and Hollister. At first I thought nothing of it; my mom (the only female in the household) must have been out shopping. Then I find out that the clothing belongs to no one other than my brother. I felt betrayed, I felt as though I had failed as a bigger brother. I thought there must be an explanation to this and his only remark was "the girls picked it out."

It has come to my conclusion that it's not just my brother who has been sucked into this world of "AE" and Hollister; it is in fact the majority of the

freshmen boys.

Now I am not saying all clothing from those highly overpriced feminine stores is bad; I am ok with polos and dress shirts. It's the tee shirts and the jeans that kill me. What ever happened to the good old days when you could just sport a practical Nike shirt and a pair of jeans that hasn't already been stained, ripped or faded.

I just had to get to the bottom of this and Freshman Taylor Lannamann had some answers. "Many of us feel that the girls in our grade have above average standards for us males, so we feel that we have to dress in clothing styles that will suit their outrageous expectations or else."

Taylor, you have the right idea, doing it for the ladies. But good god man, have some dignity. You don't need to do every little thing the girls wish, especially if it involves your clothing choices, as long as you don't look like hell you'll be fine.

There are many who have opposing views on the freshmen clothing choice including many upperclassmen. Chaz Hewitt, a senior, has got some beef with the freshmen clothing selection as well. "They are all trying to be your typical Laguna Beach fruitcake; they are just trying way too hard to be accepted." Junior Leslie Claridge says, "I think they should just be required to wear the same generic clothing; like a white shirt and jeans, every day, until they prove themselves worthy of handling real clothes."

I personally have a huge problem with the issue. It bothers me to think that someone is actually wearing a TEESHIRT that is priced at over \$25, that's just outrageous. Not to mention they don't even look that good. Most of the shirts at AmericanEagle.com just have the words American eagle *very* artistically printed on it and if you're lucky the shirt will also include a bird flapping its wings.

I even go as far as to make my brother either take off his shirt or turn it inside out when he's in my car, you can ask him for yourself, I'll have nothing of it.

My advice to you boys would be to stop caring so much what the girls in your grade think and start to care more about what upperclassmen (such as myself) think. Yes, it's ok to look nice from time to time but you don't need to do it everyday.

So freshmen girls, cut your fellow classmates some slack, just because you love shopping at overpriced American eagle and Hollister doesn't mean you need to drag the boys down with you.

And as for my brother, if you're planning on upholding the Kerrigan legacy, you're going to need say goodbye to this little phase, for good.



Some Flamboyant Freshmen



Cassiodela Alba Op-Ed Department

5 Bands You Should Be Listening To

SILVER JEWS: Often unfairly labeled a Pavement side-project, Silver Jews are an indie-rock/country band led by singer/songwriter David Berman—who, incidentally, is *not* a member of Pavement. Don't be scared by the "country" label; they're not singing about achy-breaky hearts so much as they have a few twangy guitars and a song vaguely reminiscent of The Beatles' "Rocky Raccoon." And how can you not like a band capable of casually name-dropping Toulouse-Lautrec? Never mind that it's Stephen Malkmus (alias "Hazel Figurine") playing guitar; Silver Jews are a band worth checking out in their own right.

ESPECIALLY AWESOME SONGS: Punks in the Beerlight, How Can I Love You If You Won't Lie Down, Honk If You're Lonely Tonight

BELLE AND SEBASTIAN: I wasn't initially going to write about Belle and Sebastian; at least in the world I live in, that's kind of like saying "Hey man, there's this great new band called Led Zeppelin..." However, an informal MOR poll revealed that I was the only member of the Op-Ed department who'd heard of them, so here goes. Belle and Sebastian are an amazing seven-member Scottish band that you should *definitely* be listening to. The adjective most often applied to them is "twee," but they have such an extensive catalogue of music that there's really something for everyone (well, the heavy-metal kids might be out of luck). Please, for your sake, listen to Belle and Sebastian.

ESPECIALLY AWESOME SONGS: Seeing Other People, For the Price of a Cup of Tea, Lazy Line Painter Jane. **Continued on Page 25**

St Nicholas reportedly died about 350 AD.

Questions and Advice: With Suavé Sam



Sam Kerrigan Op-Ed Department

Q-Why am I such an awkward dancer? - Senior Jeff Coburn

A-Jeffrey, I have known you my entire life so I'm going to be honest with you. You're really goofy; your lankiness combined with your deathly white complexion is not a good combo. You just look like a skeleton dancing around; you've got the moves, you just don't have the look. Try and get some sun or maybe

even to a tanning booth. Then try and more clothing than you did at the Halloween dance and I think you'll be set come next dance.

Q-As a freshman boy how I can go about getting older girls to be attracted to me? -John Kerrigan

A-Johnny boy, tough question...I think you should either give up and wait a year for some younger ladies, or go around telling everyone you're related to me. That might help.

QWhere do babies come from? -Senior Ryan Hubbard

A-Ryan, I'll give you the short version. They come from two grownups who love each other very much. If you want the long version, ask your mom.

5 Bands Continued...

RACHAEL SAGE: So she's not a "band" per se, but Rachael Sage still plays some pretty great music. It's mainly folky, but there's a little bit of rock and New Age in there as well. Her music is honestly beautiful, from her voice to the almost ubiquitous piano. Her song's topics range from simple love songs to Nazi concentration camps, but they're always genuinely pretty. She's released seven albums since 1996; her most recent, "The Blistering Sun," came out this year.

ESPECIALLY AWESOME SONGS: The Spirit We, Colorized World, Air We Share

ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI: So, what are all the cool kids in Australia listening to? That'd be Melbourne-based pop band Architecture in Helsinki. Evolving out of a funk-grunge garage band called The Pixel Mittens, Architecture in Helsinki are now playing fast, multi-instrument music with no shortage of time signature changes. Did I mention that it's also extremely catchy? Described as everything from "avant-garde" to "prog-pop," Architecture in

Q-Sammy I have some questions that have been bothering me, One, why do we say, "I'm putting on a pair of pants," if there's only one actual item of clothing?

It should be either I'm putting on a pair of pant legs or I'm putting on a pant.

Two, what do you do if *you* saw an endangered animal eating an endangered plant? Which would you kill?-Junior Dragos Maftai

A-Mr. Maftai, you have two absolutely mind boggling questions. You wouldn't say pant legs because it covers more than just your legs, and as to why it's not called a pant I'm not sure. You should probably look into getting that changed. As for the endangered animal/plant I wouldn't kill either. I would save the plant by tackling the animal then I would relocate the animal in a non-harmful way. That way both the animal and plant would survive.

Q-Why is Zack Benuck so feminine?-Tommy Lynch

A-Tommy, you've hit upon a very confusing subject. I personally think it is because Zack secretly wants to be just like his sister. From what I've heard he borrowed her pink soccer ball for the entire season and he also tries on her clothing. That really is the only explanation, that he simply idolizes his little sister.

Do you have a problem? or question thats been driving you mad? submit your questions or problems for the next issue of the MOR

Helsinki is one slightly strange band that's definitely worth checking out. ESPECIALLY AWESOME SONGS: It's 5!, The Owls Go, Frenchy I'm Faking

HARRY AND THE POTTERS: Please realize that I'm being totally serious about this. Yes, there is a band called Harry and the Potters, based in Norwood, Massachusetts. It's made up of two brothers who refer to themselves as "Harry, Year 4" and "Harry, Year 7," and play what they call "wizard rock." Their musicianship occasionally leaves something to be desired, but who can argue with lyrics like "Draco/You're crying again/Are you sad that you turned your best friends into women?" They've released four CDs, all in character as Harry Potter, and will be holding their second annual "Yule Ball" at the Middle East in Cambridge on December 10.

ESPECIALLY AWESOME SONGS: Voldemort Can't Stop The Rock, Wizard Chess, We Save Ron's Life Part 8

What band do YOU think everyone should be listening to? Email us at morlovesmusic@yahoo.com!

Student Reaction to Wednesday's Assembly...

Students exchanged heated comments in an assembly on the topic of dance behavior and vandalism. Some of the reaction:

"It's the most apathetic generation that I've ever seen. The saddest part is no one's going to care. 'Who cares about anyone else as long as it doesn't effect me. My I-pod still works.'" - Art teacher Tim Lawrence.

"I can't believe how immature people are acting." - Alexander Taylor

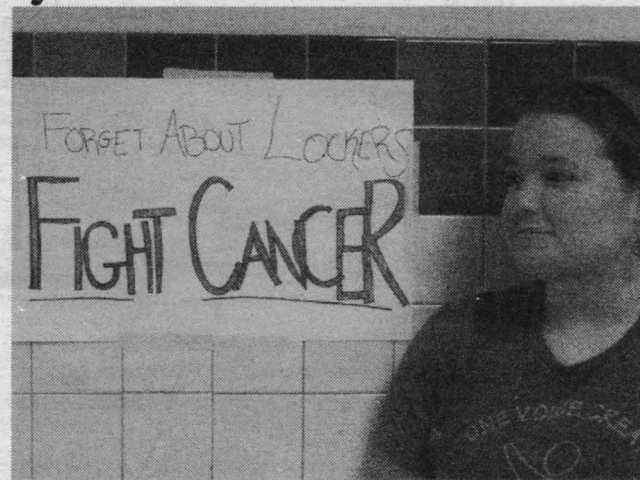
"I think that people got a little outrageous and maybe exaggerated issues a bit." - Amelia Curtis

"It was fun to observe and watch people flip out for no reason." - Sam Eggers

"It was pretty interesting how classmates were turning on each other." - Jared Shaheen

"I think that people need to grow up and there's way too much drama. Even though it was mildly entertaining to witness, there's way too much immaturity going on for how old we really are." - Matt Camp

What do you think? Show you're not apathetic! Submit a Letter to the Editor!



Cecilia Low-Weiner gives her reaction.

Saint Nicholas has been the patron saint of Russia, Moscow, Greece, children, sailors, prisoners, bakers, pawnbrokers, shopkeepers and wolves.

Athletes of September

Name/Nicknames: Blair Kelley, "Bkel"

DOB: 12/8/88

5 words to describe you: Stocky, Speedy, Intense, Fiery, Unedited.

Sport: Soccer

Sports Hero: Larry Bird

Best Sports Memory: Making it to the lacrosse state finals after beating Lebanon 13-2

Most Embarrassing Sports Memory: When I muttered something inappropriate under my breath to a lacrosse ref at Dover and he heard me. He asked me if I wanted to get thrown out of the game.

Favorite Sports Movie: Hoosiers or Caddyshack

Sports Superstitions: I don't share my superstitions or else they won't work.

Animal you think represents you on the field: El Toro (The Bull)

How much can you bench: 6 Bills



Name/Nicknames: Jessica Benoit, "Jess"

DOB: 5/23/89

5 words to describe you: Shy, determined, trustworthy, fun, kind

Sport: Golf

Sports Hero: Sergio Garcia

Best Sports Memory: Getting 4th in the State to break my own personal record for golf.

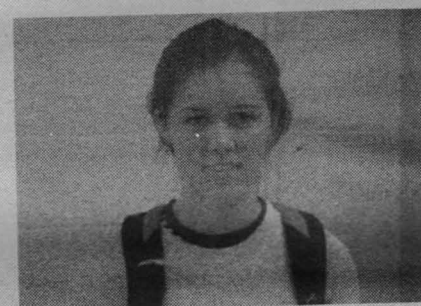
Most Embarrassing Sports Memory: Sophomore year at Fore on Four driving range, the head of one of my irons flew off, into the range.

Favorite Sports Movie: Friday Night Lights, Caddyshack, and Happy Gilmore

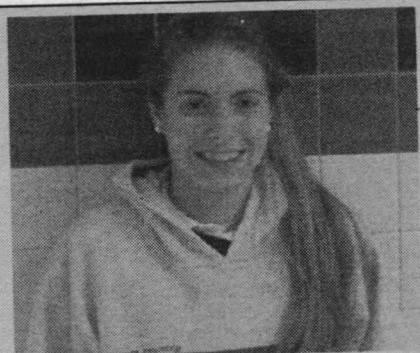
Sports Superstitions: A girl at the middle school gave Mr. Pollet a golfing frog statue, and we (the golf team) would rub him on the bus before matches, but that did not last long though.

Animal you think represents you on the field: A lemur because they swing.

How much can you bench: I'm not too sure.



Athletes of October



Name/Nicknames: Rachel Rines

DOB: 7/11/89

5 words to describe you: I look like my twin...

Sport: Cross-Country

Sports Hero: Joan Benoit Samuelson

Best Sports Memory: Either "The Whip" (that's for all my cross country girls) or New England's this past fall.

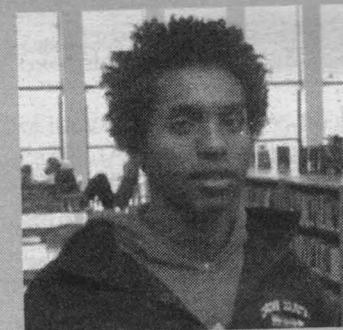
Most Embarrassing Sports Memory: Probably peeing myself.

Favorite Sports Movie: Remember the Titans

Sports Superstitions: I tie my racing flats in five knots each, and I always crack my knuckles at the starting line.

Animal you think represents you on the field: Gazelle because I run on my toes.

How much can you bench: 501... or at least more than Eyob.



Name/Nicknames: Eyob Eyualet

DOB: 9/25/88

5 words to describe you: Positive, determined, optimistic, witty, naughty

Sport: Cross Country

Sports Hero: Haile Gebreselassie

Best Sports Memory: Going to New England Championships with Rachel Rines for the last three years.

Most Embarrassing Sports Memory: Running in Class I, and having my shorts fall around my ankles.

Favorite Sports Movie: Cool Runnings

Sports Superstitions: I always run my best if I go to a school dance the night before.

Animal you think represents you on the field: Lions, cheetahs, unicorns

How much can you bench: 500 lbs.

The Athletes of the Month were not selected by the MOR staff. They were chosen by Mr. Maynard and the coaches of the fall sports teams.

A spooked turkey can run at speeds up to 20 miles per hour.



The Few, the Proud, the Gym Class Heroes

Emily Sievert Sports Writer

The small round ball soars above the heads of the people on the ground. It loses some speed as the air slows down its momentum, but still manages to hit the gym wall above the blue line. The players in the outfield moan in defeat as the hitting team screams and cheers. Players run the bases, racking up the runs for the home team. The game looks like it will be a massacre. This chaos is caused by none other than a Gym Class Hero.

We all know at least one athlete that roams the halls of Oyster River. We watch them score goals, hit home-runs, spike volleyballs, or sink threes, but what we might not know is that their expertise spans onto more than just the playing field. Their talent can be seen displayed on the court during their everyday gym class. They are the people who hit the golf ball into the softball field and dive across the gym floor to hit the birdie in the badminton unit. They are what some would call: A Gym Class Hero

"You have to go all out to get the best gym experience," said Kai Beaton, a gym class hero in the sophomore grade. A Hero may be characterized as someone who tries hard, is competitive, and most of all, wants to win. For instance, a Gym Class Hero might get mad when they are partnered with someone who might not try as hard as they do, like Junior Derrick Kotlus who remembers despising bad partners when he participated in gym.

"When my partner was bad in the badminton unit, I would want to hit him with the racket. I had to win badminton, it was my game," Kotlus stated about his memories of his previous year gym class. "If I have to take gym, I'm going to make the best of it. I'm going to win," finished Kotlus.

There are different opinions out there about what it takes to be a Gym Class Hero. A Hero has certain aspects that separate them from the rest and a few of those traits might include attitude, competitive edge or even gender.

"Guys try so much harder than girls!" Kotlus stated in a heated interview. Most athletic girls might disagree with this statement, while others girls just don't feel like they have to care about gym.

"I loved gym class, but I didn't feel like I had to win. I could've tried harder, but I didn't want to get all sweaty during school," stated Junior, Cara Sherry. Other girls admitted to feeling victimized by the male Gym Class Hero population.

"[The boys] would yell at me! I was like, guys calm down, it's gym class!" stated Kendra Davis remembering the times when her shot might just miss the net in the broomball unit.

Losing is something that most likely can't happen to a Hero. Some people find this trait to be extremely annoying, while others think that a 'want to win' is what makes gym class worthwhile.

"It's good when the guys try so hard in class. If people didn't want to win, then the games would be pointless," said Senior Sarah Grant about her previous gym classes. Gym teacher, Amy Mcphee agreed with Grant about the effort that Gym Class Heroes posses.

"I like that athletes want to give it their all in gym class, because they should. Yet it's also good to have both athletes and non-athletes in the same class because the dynamics are wonderful!" stated Mcphee.

Other Oyster River students brought up the fact that some people aren't naturally good at sports and therefore don't succeed in gym.

"There's a difference between people who are bad at sports and people who don't try," stated Junior Tess Miliken. The people that Miliken is referring to might be people that a Gym Class Hero would get frustrated with. Senior athlete Chris Macarthur talked about how losing a game in stickball because of a bad team is unacceptable.

"I'd get real pissed," Macarthur stated while shaking his head.

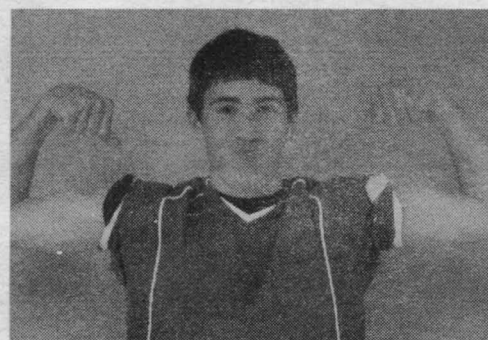
There are Gym Class Heroes all over the School of Oyster River. These people can be found in each grade and they are those who outshine their peers with natural ability and the desire to win. They are loved, hated, laughed at, booed at, or cheered for but they are what make the class worthwhile. They are who we idolize or despise but that means that they are known. They are the real-life heroes who have received the awards, scored all the points and won all the games. There are so many Gym Class Hero's that now roam the halls of Oyster River, that our school thought it necessary to create an Advanced Gym Class. This is where our spectacular athletes and heroes can now be found, scoring baskets and throwing rackets, but most of all, doing what they do best.

Meet the Heroes



Name: Jill Friel
Grade: Sophomore

Best gym class memory: Being the ultimate run-around tennis champion.
Worst gym class memory: Losing in the Pickleball finals.
Favorite Unit: Pickleball
Reaction to losing: Complete silence or punching Karissa.
Reaction to winning: Gloating and showboating/bad trash talking.



Name: Matt Campbell
Grade: Junior

Best gym class memory: Hitting some kid with a broomball stick.
Worst gym class memory: Getting yelled at by Maynard for attitude.
Favorite unit: Getting ripped in the weight room.
Reaction to losing: Dammit!
Reaction to winning: In yo' Face!

Continued on the next page.

The Few, the Proud, the Gym Class Heroes

Continued from the previous page.

Name: Caitlin Guarino

Grade: Senior

Best gym class memory: Winning the pickleball finals sophomore year, and then winning the tennis doubles tournament freshman and sophomore year.

Worst gym class memory: Mine and Emily Sievert's attempt at a guys vs. girls football game when most of the girls didn't know any of the rules and there were a billion guys. Such a frustrating day!

Favorite unit: Football, Pickleball, Tennis (I can't choose just one!)

Reaction to losing: I usually just stop talking for awhile because anything I say soon after losing comes out as me yelling and causing a scene. It takes awhile to recover from a loss.

Reaction to winning: I'm usually in a pretty good mood for the rest of the day and there is a fair amount of taunting especially when I beat Craig Randall or someone else who is as competitive as I am. Winning is really what it's all about.

The freshman gym class hero is Arturo Jaras-Watts, but because he failed to return his interview on time, it is not here, and he does not get a picture.

Physical Education for the Advanced

The gym erupts in cheers and groans. A foam ball has just been smashed into the State Championship banners by Kyle Cranney. Automatic home run. Pitcher/teacher Leigh Avery is being mocked for throwing up such a meatball and trash is being yelled all across the gymnasium.

Such is the frequent scene in Advanced Physical Education. This semester's class is made up of 14 elite athletes: Kyle Cranney, Evan Lonstein, Blake Janelle, Sam Kerrigan, Caleb Evans, Ian Hickok, Joe Gehling, Charles Hewitt, Liz Rollins, Hannah Long, Mia Sweet, Christina Stacey, Sammy Datti, and Sarah Betty.

Advanced PE was first offered to the upperclassmen of Oyster River at the beginning of last year. The class was created in order to provide a way for non-athletes to get physical activity on a school day. Because PE had only previously been offered to underclassmen, juniors and seniors had no involvement with physical activity. Students are accepted into Advanced PE based on the grades they received in their freshman and sophomore PE classes. The best students in those classes are accepted if they apply for the advanced class.

The ultimate goal of Advanced PE is to change the philosophy of physical education, according to Leigh Avery. Avery says, "Advanced PE is a step in the right direction. We are hoping to have PE for all four grades in the high school."

Advanced PE is so much better than regular PE for numerous reasons. One such reason is that everyone there really wants to be there and tries very hard. Another is that the students have much more say in what happens in the class. Also since the teachers know the students better, they try to just let them play, without the intrusions that are commonplace in the underclassmen PE. The teachers never stop play to point out something that someone could have done, or to help improve the game. The games just keep on going, a continuous flow of energy.

All of the students in the class signed up for it, so they want to be there. There is never any complaining about having to change, and no one is ever mad or upset about the activity that is being played.

The teachers are much more comfortable with the students, and they do not teach nearly as much. Because the students have already experienced PE for two years, the teachers do not make a lot of rules; they simply make guidelines. They never need to teach the class how to play any of the activities, and



Joe Gehling
Sports Writer

attendance never gets in the way of class time. As soon as everyone is changed and the game is set up it begins. There is no instruction time, no days where you must practice strategy, only games.

Leigh Avery says, "What I like most about the class is that the kids do a wonderful job incorporating everyone, and making everyone feel like they are part of the class."

And the games are incredibly competitive. Everyone has fun, but no one wants to lose. Almost everyone goes "all out" nearly all the time. When someone makes a mistake they are ridiculed in good humor, and when someone makes a spectacular play, they are congratulated with cheers and high fives.

The class is also a great deal smaller than the underclassmen PE class. Everyone plays every game, all period long. There are no substitutes, and there are never more than two games going on at once.

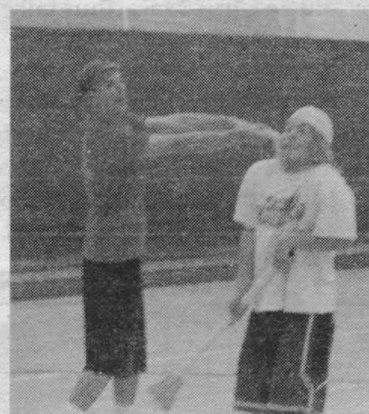
There are many reasons why you should take Advanced PE if you even remotely enjoyed the underclassmen gym class. One is that you get a credit and a good grade, usually, just for having fun and playing games. Michael Sack gave his reasoning for taking the elective last year when he said:

"I really enjoyed PE through my whole academic career, and I didn't want to just stop." Sack also said that Advanced PE is much better than the underclassmen gym class because, "Only athletic kids that want to play are in it, and thus it is much more competitive."

Cranney, who has been in Advanced PE for the past two years, says he took the class because, "The atmosphere is so much better. Also, because it is in the morning it wakes me up. It is a good time; it lets you get some aggression out."

Cranney also said, "There is more student input, we get to choose the units." And for those of you who disagree with Cranney, keep in mind that he has been in gym for all four years of his high school career, so he is the most experienced PE-er in the entire school.

This year's class is very competitive, and contains incredible athletes. So far they have played flag football, street hockey, broomball, stickball, and they have worked out in the weight room. In this class, Cranney feels that he is the MVP, and, he said, "Kerrigan sucks at broomball ...and Joe is an excellent offensive wingman."



Kyle Cranney smacks Sam Kerrigan in the face with a broomball stick.

The common abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet.

Ski Mountain Preview 2006-07

Emily Sievert Sports Writer

It's time again to slip into your ski boots, click into your bindings, clip on your helmet strap and hit the slopes. Everyone loves it when the New England Mountains are filled with snow, and should be even more excited for this coming year. Last year's ski season was extremely depressing with New Hampshire's accumulated snowfall only reaching 54.2 inches, when the normal season gets around 80 inches. This year, Accuweather.com predicts that, because of an El Nino that formed in Canada over the summer, we will have a mild start to the winter with more snow coming in January and February when the El Nino hits us, so skiers, be ready! We all have our favorite mountains in New England or elsewhere, so below is a list of the most popular choices that deserve to be recommended. Have a great season!

Outside New England:

Snowbird, UT

The mountain where "you can fall and not get hurt." -Emily Murphy

Average Annual Snowfall- 500"

Elevation-11,000 ft.

Terrain: 27% Beginner, 38% Intermediate, 35% Advanced

Number of Runs: 89

Skiable Acres: 2,500

Longest run: 2.5 miles

Opening day: November 18, 2006

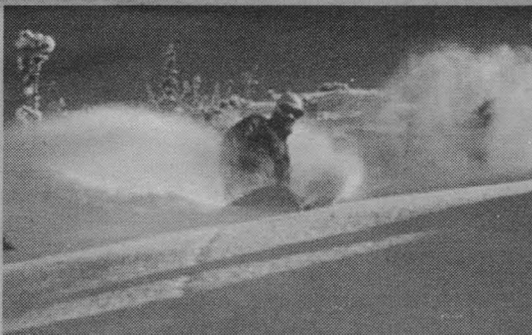
All day pass (Tram and Chairs): \$64/day

All day just chairs: \$54/day

Snowbird/Alta Pass: \$71/day

Hate it or Love it:

- "Has great variety of terrain." -Max Harris, Junior
- "Snowbird always has snow, no matter when you go. They never have a bad season." -Connor Jacobson, Junior



Courtesy of
www.outerquest.com

Alta, UT

"It's got the best snow. It's got the best everything!" - Ryan Daly

Average Annual Snowfall: 500"

Elevation: 10,550 ft.

Terrain: 25% Beginner, 40% Intermediate, 35% Advanced

Number of Runs: 116

Skiable Acres: 2,200

Opening day: November 16, 2006

All day pass: \$52

*Offers Nordic Trail Passes and Cat Skiing

*NO SNOWBOARDERS ALLOWED

Hate it or Love it:

- "Alta is just ridiculous; so nice!" -Max Harris, Junior
- "NO SNOWBOARDERS!" -Connor Jacobson, Junior



Courtesy of
katie-ann.prblogs.org

Whistler BC, Canada

Average Annual Snowfall: 360"

Elevation: 5,020 ft.

Terrain: 20% beginner, 55% intermediate, 25% advanced

Number of Runs: 100+ trails

Skiable Acres: 3,657

Longest run: 7 miles (Burnt Stew down Green Line to Lower Olympic)

Opening day: November 23, 2006

All day pass: All lift tickets are for Whistler and Blackcomb

*Offers Heli-Skiing

Hate it or Love it:

- "Whistler is an amazing mountain but its very weather dependent. There have been a couple of times when they haven't had any snow and they had to drain surrounding lakes, so you have to know when to go." -Andrew Stark, Junior



Courtesy of
www.whistlervillageinn.com

Continued on the next page.

There is only one place in the United States that has a town named Christmas, it is located in Florida.

Ski Mountain Preview 2006-07

Continued from the previous page.

Good Ol' New England:

Sunday River, ME

"Sunday River is huge! I love it there!" –Evan Lonstein, Senior

Average Annual Snowfall:

Elevation: Total: 2,340 ft. (between all 8 peaks)

Terrain: 25% beginner, 35% intermediate, 23% advanced, 17% expert

Peaks: White Cap, Locke Mountain, Barker Mountain, Spruce Peak, North Peak, South Ridge, Aurora Peak, Oz

Opening day: December 24, 2006

All day pass: \$57/day-Young Adult, \$65/day Adult

Hate it or Love it:

- "It is a great mountain for a wide range of skill levels." –Ben Vallier, Senior
- "Way too crowded sometimes, like on holidays." –Shalyn Cantor- Senior
- "I like it because it's big." –Neal Lofgren, Junior
- "I like that it's huge, which means that it offers a lot, but it's very expensive and a long drive." –Evan Lonstein, Senior

Courtesy of
www.ewh.ieee.org



Bretton Woods, NH

"I love that I can ski down a trail and not worry about hitting anyone." –Lauren Anderson, Senior

Average Annual Snowfall: 200+ in.

Elevation: 3,100 ft.

Terrain: 31% beginner, 41% intermediate, 28% advanced

Number of Runs: 101

Skiable Acres: 434

Longest run: 2 Miles Home (2 miles)

Opening day: November 10, 2006

All day pass: \$64/day

Hate it or Love it:

- "I like the trees; not like 'Oh my god! That tree was beautiful' but the glades. There are a lot of them." –Evan Lonstein
- "There's a lot of area, but it's completely flat." –Max Harris

Courtesy of
www.mtwashington.com



Sugarloaf, ME

"Best mountain in New England? I gotta go with the loaf." –Dave Hawley

Average Annual Snowfall:

Elevation: 4,237

Terrain: 26% beginner, 31% intermediate, 27% advanced, 16% expert

Number of Runs: 133

Skiable Acres: 1,400

Longest run: Tote Road-3.5 miles

All day pass: \$67/day

Hate it or Love it:

- "Huge fan of Sugarloaf; So much terrain and diversity, chea." –Max Harris, Junior
- "I love the loaf. You gotta ski it telemark though. Free the heel and the rest will follow," –Dave Hawley

Courtesy of

www.firsttracksonline.com

In conclusion, all of the mountains above have done something to impress someone and therefore deserve to be recommended. Whether it has 200+ inches of snow each season, or whether the trail variety is what interests you, these mountains are loved and dreamed of so get out there and ski!

Sports... to the Extreme

All of us have an adventurous side whether it be hiking New England's 4,000 footers or camping during the colder months. Yet, some of us out there go even farther than that. Those people are known as "thrill-seekers" or "adventure-lovers" and they take part in the world of extreme-sports. There are so many crazy things that students at OR do and we would like to hear about them all. If you have gone white-water rafting, sky-diving, ice/rock-climbing, surfing, wind surfing, bungee-jumping, or something as common as water-skiing, we would like to know! Submit stories of the craziest ski-jumps you've gone off, or the wakeboarding competition you won (for example), and we'll post it! Include a picture and it'll be even better, because all of us thrill seekers out there need new ideas of what to do, or might just want to dream about participating. Thanks!

Parasailing: For All Thrill Seekers



Emily Sievert
Sports Writer

Recently, I took a trip to Florida for my birthday. My dad told me that I was going to be visiting grandparents, and

staying in a nice house with my one of my Grandma's. This sounded like any other trip to me, you know, since all grandparents basically live in Florida, visiting them is what you do. Yet, I didn't know that our house was a mere 5 miles from Ft. Myers Beach and that we would be spending the majority of our trip there. I was pumped.

For a day or two I worked on my tan, swam in the warm water, and walked along the shoreline, but I also watched all the activity on the water. As I walked along the beach I noticed rental tents and booths that rented everything from Jet Skis and Banana Bots, to Parasailing. I had to do it. The surprising thing was that my dad wanted to parasail too, so it actually happened! At around 11:00 on our second day there, we paid roughly \$150 bucks and headed up into the air.

Parasailing was a lot easier than I thought it would be. I had told my mom about our plan to do it, and she had told me about this time when her friend

had tried. She said that her friend had to run down the beach behind a boat fast enough for the wind to catch the parachute. That didn't sound like something I wanted to do. Luckily, parasailing has been improved and all I had to do was strap into a harness and sit on the back of a boat until the wind caught the parachute and my sister and I were swept into the air. We ended up going about 350 feet high and I swear I could see across Florida. My one worry was that I would be scared to be up there hanging from a parachute, but it was honestly just amazing. I have never seen anything so beautiful. Some of my favorite parts were when we were about level with someone's sea plane and we could see into the cockpit. Also when I looked down into the water and saw a shark and a sea turtle.

Unfortunately, the ride only lasted about 10 minutes, but that felt long enough. I had soared through the air from a parachute, and had seen what was probably the entire west coast of Florida. If I

could do it again, I would in a heartbeat and I would recommend this to everyone; even those afraid of heights.



Megan and I enjoy parasailing in Florida.

Whitewater Rafting



Joe Gehling
Sports Writer

White water rafting is an incredibly intense extreme sport. The water in rapids does not seem remotely like the water in lakes, streams, rivers, and oceans. Rapid's water

feels like a living, moving thing. It is unbelievably powerful. People can die white water rafting, although it is extremely uncommon (0.55 deaths per 100,000 user days rafting).

When I went white water rafting, it was down the Kennebec River, a Class IV rapid. The guide for my raft said that although it was only a Class IV rapid, there were parts of it that were Class V. Going down that river was one of the most intense and exciting things I have ever done. We got a brief lesson on land, explaining what we were supposed to do when we were about to hit a big wave, and what to do if we fall out of the raft.

In order to paddle, you had to sit on the side of the raft, and when we hit the first rapid, I was so un-prepared, I was launched into the middle of the raft. I was the farthest person forward on my side of the raft, so I was absolutely

drenched five minutes into the experience. The next time we hit a big wave I was ready for it, but was still nearly thrown from my seat. Rafting was so fun, I wanted to do it all day. I hardly had to do any paddling at all. My paddling did not seem to affect where the raft went one bit.

The third wave we hit was the biggest one that we would hit on the river. We had to wait for the raft in front of us to pass through it, and the guide, who sits at the back of the raft, got launched literally four feet into the air, and landed on top of someone else in his raft. As we were about to hit it, we all braced ourselves as we were taught, and then slammed into it. It hit me so hard that I was thrown backwards, and smashed the

person behind me. I was lucky not to have fallen off of the raft.

White water rafting was such an incredible experience; I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys the outdoors or an adrenaline rush. The combination of peaceful nature, and roaring excitement is unreal and can be found nowhere else in the world.

The guide got launched
literally four feet into the air,
and landed on top of some-
one else in his raft.

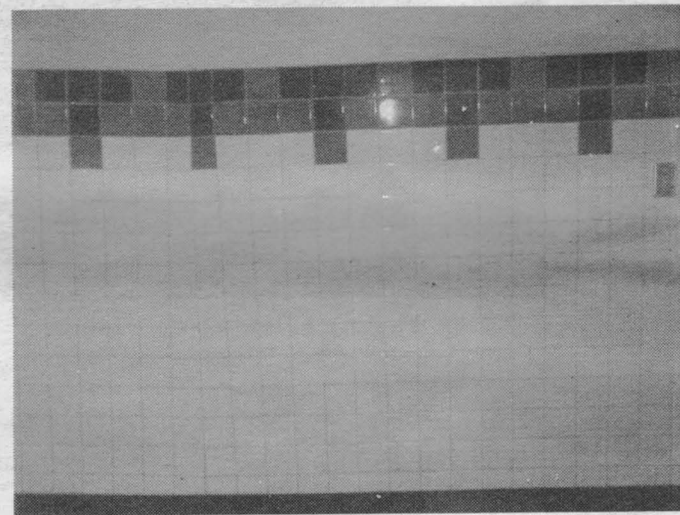
If you could do anything for 24 hours.....



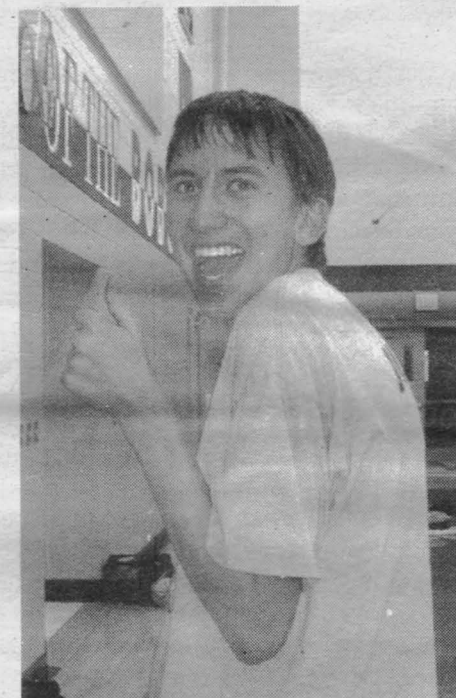
"Be really rich and go shopping."
-Sophomore Devin Kirby



"I would be a girl." -Junior Matt Campbell



"I'd be invisible."
-Senior Evan Lonstein



"Eat food non-stop."
-Sophomore Robert Perkins



"I would eat ice cream and
never get a headache."
-Ms. Rosi

"We would fly."
-Seniors Hilda
Mackinnon and
Kelsey Cross

